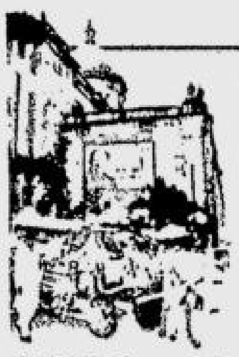

LIFESTYLE / E1

Cardinal Sin's last journey, as recalled by personal photographer

ENTERTAINMENT / A2-1

Gina Pareño slugs it out with Monica Bellucci, Salma Hayek in Moscow

NEWS / A2

2 retired colonels linked to Oakwood plot arrested

SPORTS / A38

Ghana upsets Czech Republic in Africa's first World Cup win

GMA foes to hold vigil for second impeach rap

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE "BANTAY OLIVER" WATCH IS ON.

Smarting from the House minority's bungling last year, citizens' groups are holding a vigil in Congress to make sure that they, not lawyer Oliver Lozano or the inept opposition, would have first crack at a second impeachment complaint against President Macapagal-Arroyo.

GMA FOES/ A5

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Monday, June 19, 2006 ★★ 9 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 191 P18 website: www.inq7.net

Aussie economists find money delays life, death

SYDNEY—MONEY CAN'T buy love or happiness, but it can delay both life and death, according to two Australian economists.

An announcement in the government's May 2004 budget that a "Baby Bonus" of A$3,000

AUSSIE/ A5

PATI ORAS MO, MABIBILI NA!

BIG BELCHER
Mount Bulusan in Sorsogon explodes ash 2 km high, its eighth eruption since March. People have been advised to avoid the 4-km permanent danger zone. *(Story on Page A2.)* REUTERS

Loss of lives unavoidable, says Gonzalez

Church activist shot dead in Oroquieta

By Christian V. Esguerra and Luige A. del Puerto, *in Manila* and Michael F. Sarcauga, *PDI Mindanao Bureau*

THE LOSS OF CIVILIAN LIVES MAY BE UNavoidable in an all-out war with communist insurgents, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said yesterday.

"You can't avoid collateral damage … Sometimes there are bombings and civilians might get hurt," Gonzalez told the INQUIRER on the heels of Malacanang's announcement that President Macapagal-Arroyo wanted the insurgency in "critical areas" stamped out in one to two years.

Gonzalez decried accusations that the government was violating human rights, saying: "I don't think it's fair. The government is always attacked on the issue as if the government is not doing anything to protect human rights."

Accusations that the Arroyo administration was violently cracking down on dissent flared up anew after a lone gunman shot dead a church activist in Oroquieta City at around 10 a.m. Saturday.

Tito Marata, a provincial officer of Rural Missionaries of the Philippines and member of the Farmers for Agrarian Reform Movement, was the 231st activist or militant killed under the Ar-

LOSS/ A13

GMA's hardline policy vs Reds will crush her

By Amando Doronila

THE CALL OF PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARroyo in Isabela last week to crush the 37-year-old communist insurgency in two years, in at least three "critical areas," cannot simply be reduced to the worn-out cliché, "all-out war against the Left."

ANALYSIS

The call represents a major policy initiative of Ms Arroyo for the last three years of her administration with strong ideological overtones.

The Isabela initiative sharpens the administration's tendency toward strong-arm rule. It is raised for the first time since the Marcos regime's anticommunism stance as a polarizing issue upon which the Arroyo administration seeks to mobilize broad political support to ensure serving out its term till 2010.

In pursuing this line, the Arroyo administration has taken a big gamble. It is mocked by the history of failure of most Philippine administrations since 1946 to crush the communist movement militarily.

Within a time frame of three years before Ms Arroyo's term expires, and with limited military and economic resources at its disposal, the initiative faces skepticism over its success and invites criticism that it is undertaking a foolish project without carefully considering its political costs.

The Isabela project was launched even before the successful completion of the first major political initiative of this administration —the revision of the 1987 Constitution leading to the shift from the presidential system to the parliamentary system. This first policy ini-

GMA'S/ A12

No bidding in PNP purchases worth ₱322M

By Luige A. del Puerto

THE POLICE ARE BUYING SOME P322-million worth of patrol cars, motorcycles and handguns without a public bidding for the 12th Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) summit scheduled in the first week of December, according to documents shown the INQUIRER.

"We will use them for the 12th Asean summit (and) there would be no sufficient time if we go through a regular bidding," said Deputy Director General Avelino Razon Jr., chair of the the bids and awards committee (BAC) of the Philippine National Police.

The BAC approved in April resolutions calling for a "negotiated procurement" and "direct contracting," instead of a public bidding in the purchase of the equipment, the documents said.

Under negotiated procurement, a buyer directly negotiates with a "technically, legally and financially capable supplier, contractor or consultant."

In direct contracting or single source procurement, a supplier is simply asked to submit a price quotation or a "proforma invoice," together with the conditions of sale. The offer may be accepted immediately or after negotiations.

Using the P1 billion set aside by President Macapagal-Arroyo in January for the PNP, the police are acquiring 203 patrol cars worth P162 million, 12 600-cc motorcycles worth P9.6 million, and 5,000 firearms worth P151 million, according to the BAC resolutions.

The police have already chosen the suppliers and are now awaiting delivery of the vehicles and handguns, officials said.

A source in the security establishment told the INQUIRER that the justifications cited by the BAC when it dispensed with a public bidding "were not apt."

The hosting of international events, for one, is not among the conditions set by law that allow for alternative modes of procurement, said the source, who

NO BIDDING/ A7

Rizal's characters still live in our midst

By Dr. Amalia Cullarin Rosales
Contributor

(The author is the president of the Philippine Association of Teachers of History and Rizal.—Ed.)

COMMENTARY

MORE THAN A CENTURY AFTER JOSE P. RIZAL wrote Noli Me Tangere and El Filibusterismo, the characters in his novels still live today.

As the nation marked on June 12 the golden anniversary of the passage by Congress of Republic Act No. 1425, or the Rizal Law, the man described by its authors as the staunchest apostle of Filipino nationalism has gained further relevance.

The Noli and the Fili mirror the character of the Filipinos yesterday and today.

Among these characters are Señor Pasta, who seeks only his own advancement, is unmindful of the sufferings of his countrymen, and personifies every Filipino who does not question the policies of the government; Capitan Tiago, who is subservient to the officials of the government and the Catholic and other religious hierarchies, and whose likes are still in our midst; and Cabesang Tales, who was driven to become a rebel because of injustice and who personifies Filipinos forced to leave their families and join the rebels because of injustice and disenchantment with the way the

RIZAL'S/ A6

A WALK at Rizal Park means a double celebration for this man and his child on Father's Day and the eve of the 145th birth anniversary of national hero Jose Rizal. EDWIN BACASMAS

A Rizal admirer, envoy writes 2 poems for RP

By Volt Contreras

IN MARCH, A EUROPEAN PAID HOMAGE TO Dr. Jose Rizal by translating the national hero's immortal poem "Mi Ultimo Adios" into the Czech language.

He not only presented his "gift" but also recited the Spanish original from memory to great applause at the Rizal Shrine at Fort Santiago in Intramuros, Manila.

That earlier tribute, however, was apparently not enough for Jaroslav Ludva, the Czech Republic's ambassador to the Philippines.

Ludva has since penned new verses in his fascination of the martyr-patriot whose 145th birth anniversary falls today, and of the milieu in which the Filipino genius lived.

Adopting the same lyrical format and luscious Spanish used by Rizal in "Mi Ultimo," the ambassador from Prague came up with two more poems, this time casting a romantic gaze on his host city and on the whole archipelago.

A RIZAL/ A6

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Western section of Luzon and the whole of Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms becoming frequent rains over the eastern sections of Visayas and Mindanao. The rest of Luzon will be partly cloudy to cloudy with rainshowers.

COMPILED BY KATE V. PEDROSO PDI RESEARCH/06/18/06 SOURCE PAGASA

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MONDAY, JUNE 19, 2006

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

2 retired colonels linked to Oakwood plot, Gringo nabbed

By Luige A. del Puerto

POLICE AND MILITARY INTELLIGENCE AGENTS CAPtured in separate raids on Saturday two retired officers who had been charged with rebellion together with ex-Sen. Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan in connection with the failed July 2003 Oakwood mutiny, the military said.

Armed Forces of the Philippines spokesperson Brig. Gen. Jose Angel Honrado said retired Colonels Romeo Lazo and Virgilio Briones, leaders of the Philippine Guardians Brotherhood Inc., were arrested separately in Quezon City. Neither resisted arrest.

They were undergoing tactical interrogation, Honrado said. It was not immediately clear where they were being held, however.

Both police spokesperson Senior Supt. Samuel Pagdilao and Honrado said they did not have the information as of press time.

"All I know is that they were arrested and will be presented tomorrow in Malacañang. That's the information I got," Pagdilao said.

"I was informed (they were brought to) Camp Caringal yesterday," said Honrado. Camp Caringal is the headquarters of the Quezon City Police District.

At a fastfood restaurant

Lazo was arrested at around 7:30 a.m by agents of the Intelligence Services of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and policemen from the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group in Novaliches, Quezon City.

Six hours later, follow-up operations led authorities to Briones at a fastfood restaurant at the Muñoz Market, also in Quezon City.

Lazo and Briones each had a P500,000 bounty on their heads after the justice department filed rebellion charges in February against them and five other retired officers, including Honasan, who has since gone underground.

Military spokesperson Col. Tristan Kison said the arresting teams served arrest warrants on the two issued by the Makati Regional Trial Court early this year for their alleged roles in the 2003 failed coup.

Big blow

Honrado hailed their arrests as a big blow to forces that had been trying to destabilize the Arroyo administration.

"Everyone involved with the destabilization who has a warrant and is arrested [it] is a big accomplishment," he said.

Lazo and Briones's arrests came nearly two months after police caught another coup suspect, Ernesto Macahiya, a former banker and a colonel in the reserve force.

Macahiya, who also had a P500,000 bounty on his head, was arrested in April by police and military operatives in Sta. Rosa, Laguna.

Honasan, however, remains on the lam.

The police have put up P5 million for any information that would lead to the arrest of Honasan, a charismatic military colonel who had led several coup attempts against the Aquino administration in the 1980s; P1 million for retired Capt. Felix Turingan, and P250,000 each for George Duldulao and Lina Reyes, both said to be staffers of the former senator.

They were charged with committing the crime of coup d'etat on Feb. 24, the day President Macapagal-Arroyo placed the country under a state of emergency.

The restired officers' case stemmed up from the takeover in July 2003 of the Oakwood Premier hotel in Makati City by 300 renegade junior officers and soldiers who demanded the resignation of Ms Arroyo and other officials over alleged corruption.

The rebel soldiers, who became known as the Magdalo group, later surrendered after intense negotiations. Their leaders have since been detained in military camps.

Most of the soldiers involved in the 2003 uprising have been released after entering into a plea bargain and getting relatively light punishments that included one-year imprisonment. A few dozen alleged mutiny leaders, however, are being tried before a civilian and military court.

Lighter punishment

In April, 59 lieutenants and noncommissioned officers agreed to admit their guilt to a lesser offence in exchange for a lighter punishment on charges of mutiny, conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman, and disrespect to the President.

In May 2005, 184 soldiers benefited from a plea bargain.

They were sentenced to one-year jail terms, a three-rank demotion and forfeiture of basic pay for some months.

At least 29 officers and two enlisted personnel still face coup charges in a civilian court while the rest face three to four cases in a military tribunal. *With AP, Reuters reports*

LOCAL residents gaze at Mt. Bulusan from a pier in Sorsogon Sunday as the volcano continues to emit steam and ash. Residents have been warned to stay out of the 4-km danger zone around the volcano which is showing increased signs of activity. NIÑO JESUS Y. ORBETA/PDI SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU

More emissions signal eruption near—Phivolcs

By Niño Jesus Orbeta and Bobby Labalan, *PDI Southern Luzon Bureau,* and Blanche S. Rivera

SORSOGON CITY—MT. BULUSAN SPEWED a massive column of ash about 2 km into the sky at 3:56 p.m. yesterday, sending residents of surrounding areas fleeing for cover.

It was the latest in a series of ash explosions that have raised fears the 1,565-meter high Bulusan, one of the most active of the 22 volcanoes that have erupted within recorded history in the Philippines, might be ready to blow.

The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology based in Sorsogon said at 7:30 a.m. yesterday that it had recorded four volcanic earthquakes and one brief tremor in the past 24 hours. The ash drifted northwest towards Juban and Magallanes towns, said volcanologist Orlando Guardacasa.

"It's expected, considering the recent activity of Bulusan. Even in March, we've been saying that explosions might occur in Bulusan, and they've been increasing since May 31," Phivolcs chief Renato Solidum said in Manila yesterday.

Bulusan has erupted 15 times, most recently in November 1994, though minor eruptions have been recorded on April 29, May 25, May 31, June 3, June 7, June 10 and June 13, 2006, with the intervals between explosions becoming shorter and shorter.

Solidum said alert level 2 remained raised on Bulusan. The volcano was being monitored closely for "magma moving up from below," a major factor indicating a possible eruption, he said.

Residents were advised to avoid the 4-km permanent danger zone which Phivolcs said was at risk of being hit by sudden steam or ash explosions.

Residents in areas beyond the PDZ, but downwind of the crater would also be adversely affected by ashfalls during explosions, Phivolcs warned.

Residents near the river or stream channels have been advised to be watchful of sudden volcanic flows because ash and other loose volcanic deposits from the upper slopes may be "remobilized" and impact areas near the danger zone.

Phivolcs raised its alert level on Bulusan to a precautionary 2 earlier this month and reminded residents on Thursday to stay away from the mountain after its crater belched clouds of ash.

At level 3 an explosion is considered possible, at level 4 it is seen as likely and at level 5, the highest alert, an eruption has occurred, with lava flows or ash columns reaching 6 km.

Casiguran town Mayor Edwin Hamor said he had ordered local police units to start the evacuation of residents from Imlagadian village, which is inside the PDZ, because of Bulusan's increased activity.

"The residents there refused to leave their homes," Hamor said. "We were just obeying the orders of the President to move people on the volcano slopes to much safer areas. We don't want to sacrifice lives in case of a major eruption."

Juban Mayor Tess Guab-Fragata said that thick ashfall rained down on the villages of Puting Sapa, Buraburan and Guruyan in Juban and Bolos village in Irosin. *With a report from Bobby Q. Labalan, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Cabinet has 'mixed feelings' about Sto. Tomas departure

By Christine O. Avendaño

BIDDING GOODBYE TO "ONE OF THE BEST Cabinet members" of the Arroyo administration, Malacañang admitted yesterday it was "sad" to see Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas go.

Sto. Tomas takes on the less stressful job of chairing the Development Bank of the Philippines. Arturo Brion will replace her as labor secretary on July 3.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said fellow Cabinet members had "mixed feelings" about Sto. Tomas's departure.

"On the one hand, we are happy that she got her wish to have a change of pace and to have more time with her family. But we are also sad to see one of the best Cabinet members leave the official family," Bunye said.

Sto. Tomas was one of President Macapagal-Arroyo's most loyal officials, having refused to join the Hyatt 10, a group of Cabinet members and other government officials who resigned last year and called on Ms Arroyo to do the same.

But she had long wanted out of the Department of Labor and Employment.

In his "View from the Palace" column, Bunye praised Sto. Tomas for a job well done during her five-year watch, which included keeping unemployment and strikes to a minimum.

"Part of her legacy is a single-digit strike rate, from 60 strikes in the year 2000 to only nine during the first half of this year. She was also a contributory to single-digit unemployment rate and the continued rise of employment levels in the past five years," the presidential spokesperson said.

Sto. Tomas was also praised for strengthening the programs of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA), which during her term was able to attain a budget surplus.

OWWA funds reached a "record level of P10 billion," Bunye noted, adding that the agency also managed to reduce its operating expenses by half, thereby allowing funds to be earmarked for other programs and services for its members.

"We certainly wish her the best of luck in her new job as chair of the Development Bank of the Philippines while we welcome aboard her worthy replacement, legal luminary and labor relations expert Arturo Brion, who is himself an old hand in the department," Bunye said.

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No need to take flawed initiative to court, says Nene

By TJ Burgonio

THE PEOPLE'S INITIATIVE mounted across the country to amend the Constitution is so legally and constitutionally flawed there's no need to question it before the Supreme Court, Senate Minority Leader Aquilino "Nene" Pimentel Jr. said yesterday.

"We are not that eager to go the Supreme Court because we believe the law is on our side. Those who believe otherwise should take whatever steps they want to take," Pimentel said in an interview.

Pimentel asserted the people's initiative assiduously pursued by the Sigaw ng Bayan to amend the 1987 Constitution wasn't backed by an enabling law but was meant only to introduce piecemeal amendments to the Charter, not wholesale revisions.

"If there's no law supporting a people's initiative, it doesn't matter whether it's backed by [ex-President Fidel] Ramos, this will always be illegal and will have no binding legal effect," he stressed.

Ramos on Saturday had advised Charter change proponents to file a petition in the Supreme Court seeking a ruling on whether the signature mode was constitutional.

As President years ago, he had backed a similar initiative to amend the Charter and extend his term, but the high court ruled that the Initiative and Referendum Act was "inadequate" to support this.

Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, for his part, indicated that even if Ramos threw his support behind the Sigaw ng Bayan-led people's initiative, this would not prosper.

"If he's talking of supporting the people's initiative of Sigaw ng Bayan, that's going to fail. Nothing will happen to it," Enrile said over radio station dzBB.

"It will be thrown out by the Supreme Court unless the court allows itself to be used," he said.

Ramos had committed to support President Macapagal-Arroyo's Charter Change Advocacy Commission's push for a shift to a parliamentary form of government through a people's initiative, according to AdCom officials.

Enrile said that for such an initiative to prosper, its proponents need only amend the provision of Article 17 of the Constitution which states that any amendment or revision to the Charter may be proposed by Congress upon a vote of three-fourths of all its members.

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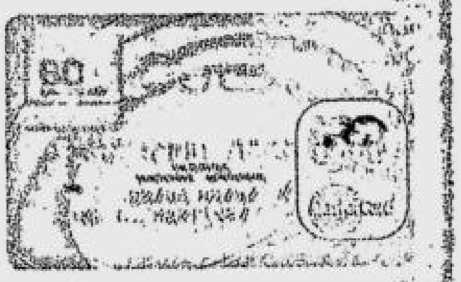

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Gov't letting Lafayette rape us some more, says bishop

By Christian V. Esguerra

AFTER HIS FACT-FINDING COMMISSION'S recommendations were ignored, Sorsogon Bishop Arturo Bastes yesterday vowed more protest actions following the government's decision to allow the Australian firm Lafayette Philippines Inc. to resume mining operations on Rapu-Rapu Island in Albay.

"We will continue with our protests," Bastes said over the Church-run Radio Veritas, citing the big rally against the decision last June 15.

The outspoken bishop said that by allowing Lafayette to resume operations against the commission's recommendations and loud protests, the government seemed to be telling the company to "rape us some more."

"It's like the country is being prostituted," he said.

"I can't understand the decision of the DENR to let them (Lafayette) have a test run," Bastes said. "They will run without taking into consideration our recommendations (against) the serious effects (of mining operations) both to our people and the country. We are being fooled."

Bastes told Veritas that he was "very disappointed" with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' decision to temporarily lift its suspension order on Lafayette following two illegal discharges of mining tailings in October last year.

The decision allowed Lafayette to resume operations for 30 days during which the DENR would determine if the remedial measures put up by the company would work.

Bastes said that before making the decision, Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes had invited him to a meeting, but the bishop instead sent representatives, including members of the commission.

During the meeting, Bastes said experts from Lafayette agreed with the findings of the commission.

"Despite that, Secretary Reyes allowed Lafayette to continue, meaning the lobby of Lafayette is very strong, powerful, meaning they have more respect for foreigners than for our own people," the bishop said.

Bastes, who headed the nine-man commission formed by Malacañang to look into the mining operations on Rapu-Rapu, had recommended that Lafayette's environmental compliance certificate be cancelled; a ban be imposed on all mining operations on Rapu-Rapu, and the Mining Act of 1995 be reviewed.

Bastes said his optimism had been partly buoyed by expressions of support coming from key government officials.

He noted that Rep. Joey Salceda, one of President Macapagal-Arroyo's economic advisers, showed up at last week's rally in Legazpi City and even delivered a speech "vehemently" against Lafayette.

"He is very mad at Lafayette and I'm happy that a top government official, a key supporter of President Arroyo, is showing support for our cause," he told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

Salceda said he was disgusted with the decision to allow Lafayette to operate. A revocation of Lafayette's license would have been proportional punishment for the serious violation of environmental and mining laws, he said.

High school students in Legazpi City have joined protesters condemning the resumption of mining activities on Rapu-Rapu.

Students from Aquinas University, St. Agnes Academy and other Catholic schools joined the protest action organized by the "Save Rapu-Rapu Alliance" composed of representatives from the Church, academe, nongovernment organizations and militant groups from the Bicol region.

Estimates of the crowd ranged from 6,000 to 8,000. *With Ephraim Aguilar, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Band controversy surrounds Brunei invite to PMA cadets

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

FORT DEL PILAR, BAGUIO CITY—GRADUATING cadets of the Philippine Military Academy will perform a silent drill parade for Brunei's Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah on his 60th birthday next month.

Bolkiah's birthday is on July 15, but Brunei Darussalam is hosting a three-day celebration highlighted by a "world military tattoo show," or military exercises accompanied by various bands, according to Philippine Air Force Capt. Dennis Solomon, PMA information officer.

A military tattoo is a drum beat or bugle call to alert soldiers or sailors to return to quarters in the evening.

This was the first time PMA cadets had been asked to exhibit their silent drill skills abroad, Solomon said on Saturday.

He said that Bolkiah offered to shoulder the cadets' week-long stay there, but PMA officials said they would fly the 80 cadets to Brunei in a Philippine military plane.

This early, the cadets' Brunei trip is already causing friction among members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Some PMA officers have questioned why the Brunei invitation had named the AFP marching band instead of the PMA band.

"We were very disappointed," a member of the PMA band told reporters here on Saturday. He said the PMA band had always accompanied the cadets' silent drill performances. The PMA band was also more familiar with the cadets' repertoire.

The minor tiff on which band would join the cadets in the Philippine delegation to Brunei was "completely unnecessary," said Solomon.

A copy of the Brunei invitation to the Philippine military attaché showed that the AFP band was asked to join the local delegation.

Solomon said the country's participation in the "tattoo" was worked out last month during the Manila visit of Maj. Gen. Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Md Yussof, commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces.

The PMA contingent would be given 45 minutes to perform their drill — longer than the time allotted to other performing guests, Solomon added.

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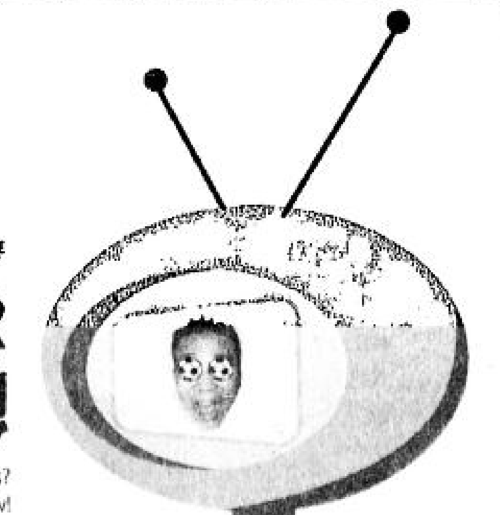

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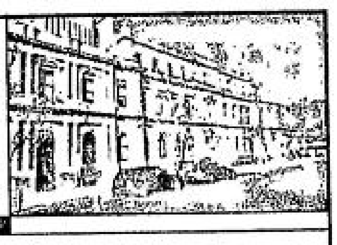

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GMA foes to hold vigil for second impeach rap

From page A1

Lawyer H. Harry Roque said citizens' groups will hold a vigil June 25-26, when the one-year ban on the filing of an impeachment complaint against the President expires.

Lozano, who shot to national prominence as a leader of the Ferdinand Marcos loyalists after the ouster of the dictator and later as a so-called "ambulance chasing lawyer" of high-profile legal cases, outsmarted the House minority when he filed a complaint to unseat the President on June 26, 2005.

Ms Arroyo's allies in the House of Representatives quashed the opposition stalwarts' subsequent impeachment complaint, claiming that it was prohibited under the Constitution since Lozano had beaten them to the punch. They also dismissed Lozano's complaint for insufficiency of substance.

"We are going to have a Bantay Oliver watch so that Oliver Lozano would not beat us again. We will stake out the House," said Roque, who had been a volunteer lawyer for the House impeachment team.

He said groups supporting the President's impeachment were wrapping up plans to hold an overnight vigil from Sunday evening to Monday morning next week.

"We will make sure that on the first minute of the order of business on June 26, which is the first year anniversary of Oliver Lozano's complaint, we will file the impeachment complaint," Roque said.

Symbolic human chain

"Some were even suggesting that we form a human chain around the House but (the Batasan complex) is quite big so what we will have are symbolic acts. But we will make sure that we will be the first to file a complaint this time," he added.

The House minority also has announced it would lodge new impeachment charges against Ms Arroyo. Her allies had squelched previous opposition allegations she had manipulated the May 2004 presidential election and committed other acts constituting what it had said were culpable violations of the Constitution.

Roque said leading civic and religious leaders would file in the House of Representatives the complaint charging Ms Arroyo with culpable violation of the Constitution and betrayal of public trust in a bid to cover up alleged election fraud.

Claims of poll shenanigans were revealed last year in purported wiretapped conversations between the President and former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano. Both Ms Arroyo and Garcillano have denied any wrongdoing.

The new complainants include Balanga Bishop Socrates Villegas, a protégé of the late Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin; University of the Philippines professor Randy David; former Supreme Court Justice Isagani Cruz; writer Bievenido Lumbera, and activist Nini Quezon-Avanceña.

Complaint launching

Roque said the formal launching of the second impeachment complaint would be held this afternoon at the Manila Polo Club.

Deputy Minority Leader Gilbert Remulla said the House minority would try to obtain by Monday the 79 votes needed to have the complaint approved by the House.

"We're working on it, but I think it's going to be a creeping impeachment again. It should be a slow but sure process," Remulla said.

He said that while political passions had abated, there was still the need for Ms Arroyo to answer the controversies plaguing her administration.

"The climate may be different but that doesn't mean that the passion is dead. It may be lower but there's an opportunity to bring things back to life," Remulla added.

The House minority complaint would accuse Ms Arroyo of "exercising dictatorial powers" to suppress "all dissent as evidenced" by the administration's "calibrated preemptive response" (CPR) against rallies, the proclamation of a national emergency in February, and the issuance of Executive Order No. 464, Roque said.

Landmark court decisions

In landmark decisions, the Supreme Court has declared unconstitutional the CPR measure and Ms Arroyo's prohibition against military and government officials from testifying in congressional hearings in aid of legislation.

While the court upheld Ms Arroyo's proclamation of an emergency, it declared illegal acts committed under the emergency declaration without securing legislative approval.

The opposition has said the high tribunal's decisions affirmed apprehensions that Ms Arroyo was resorting to strong-arm rule to keep herself in power amid a lingering crisis of legitimacy.

Roque also said Ms Arroyo should be made to answer claims she was "promoting a culture of impunity because of the widespread and systematic killing" of leftist activists.

He added that the complaint would allege that the President continued "to hang on to power because she's enriching herself" as shown by the fertilizer scam and other corruption scandals.

However, House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles said he doubted that the minority would be able to muster even the 51 signatories it got last year. "From the looks of it, I think they would only get half of what they had," he said.

Aussie …

From page A1

(US$2,250) would be paid for each child born on or after July 1 that year saw more than 1,000 births delayed, Australia National University's Andrew Leigh and Melbourne Business School's Joshua Gans noted.

"We estimate that 700 births were shifted from the last week of June 2004 into the first week of July 2004," Leigh said.

"But more troubling, we found that around 300 births were moved by more than two weeks," he added.

Leigh said that using daily births data, he and Gans found that there were more births on July 1, 2004 than on any other date in the past 30 years.

The babies who had to wait a while so their parents could cash in on their births were mostly delivered by caesarean section or induction, Leigh told Agence France-Presse.

The two economists found similar blips in the death records of 1979 when the government abolished inheritance tax.

Rather than being slapped a maximum 28-percent tax on the value of their estates, a significant number of rich people put off drawing their final breath until July 1 when they were free to die untaxed, the two researchers said.

"Over half of those who would have paid inheritance tax in its last week of operation managed to avoid doing so," Leigh and Gans said.

There were "noticeably fewer deaths during the last week of June than in the first week of July," they said, estimating that about 50 wealthy people managed to cheat the taxman.

The two economists conceded that relatives of the dead may have fiddled the date of their loved ones' deaths to protect their inheritance.

The two researchers, however, said this was not the case in the births data.

"The share of births that were induced and/or delivered by caesarean sections was particularly high in July 2004," Gans said.

"This suggests that we're not merely observing misreporting of babies' birth dates—there was a real shift in births." *AFP*

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, June 19, 2006
11th Week in Ordinary Time
Romuald

1st Reading: 1 K 21:1-16
Gospel: Matthew 5:38-42

Jesus said to his disciples, "You have heard that it was said: An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth. But I tell you this: do not oppose evil with evil; if someone slaps you on your right cheek, turn and offer the other. If someone sues you in court for your shirt, give your coat as well. If someone forces you to go one mile, go also the second mile. Give when asked and do not turn your back on anyone who wants to borrow from you."

Commentary

Ahab once again sins by taking the vineyard of a poor man Naboth. It is all that Naboth has. Ahab is abetted by Jezebel who does it for him, and has Naboth stoned to death. Then Ahab goes on to take the vineyard for his own.

Jesus tells us in the gospels about violence, condemning it outright: no murder, no violence, no harm to another; and then goes on to say that we must learn to live by offering no violent resistance no matter what is done to us. We must learn the way of one who resists as Jesus resists—with the truth and in the Spirit; to use what surprises and takes others off guard, not like those who do not believe in Jesus.

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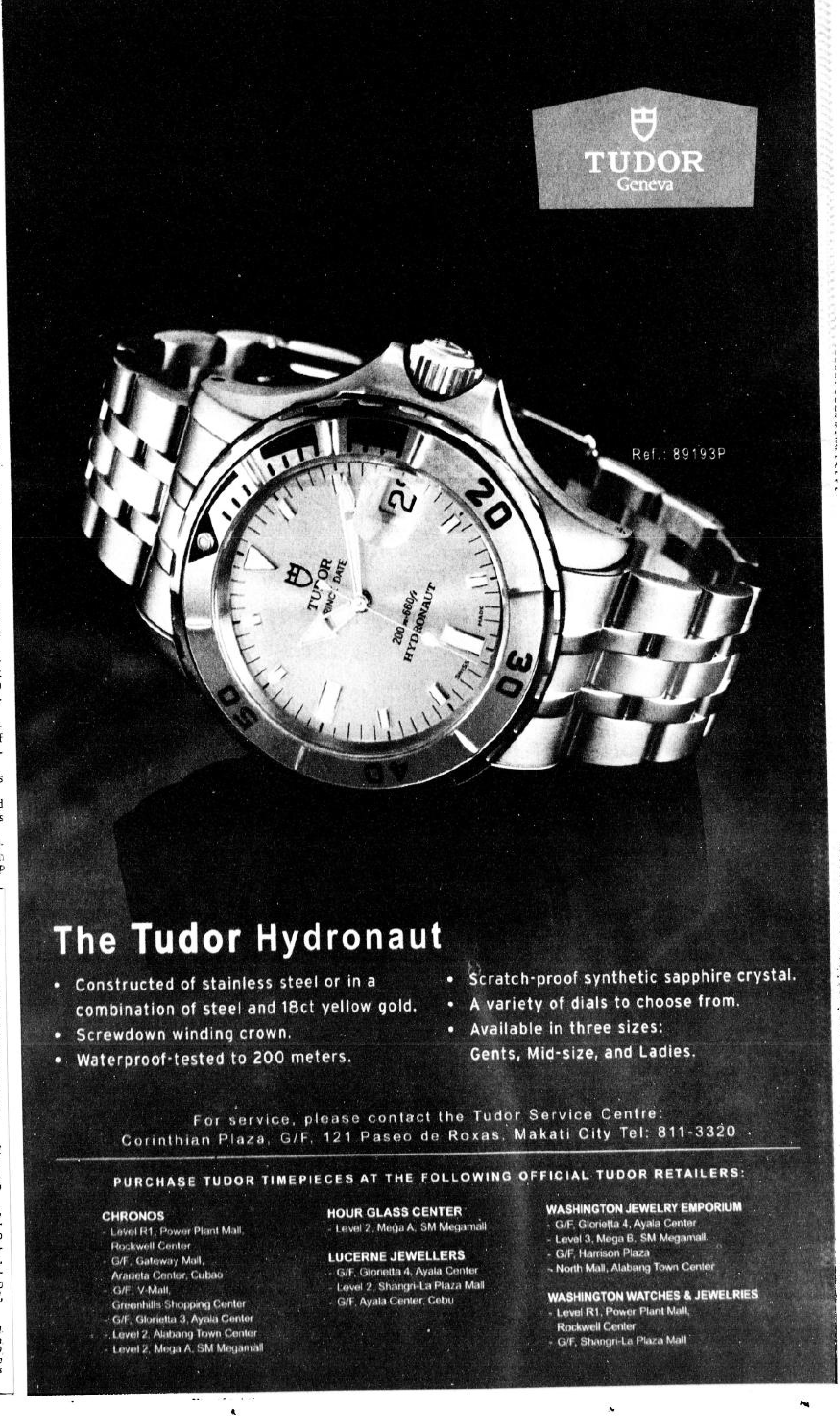

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Rizal's characters still live in our midst

From page A1

country is governed.

What about the indolent students in Rizal's time? Are they still with us? Yes, of course. They are the students who are too lazy to study and wait only for holidays.

What about the respectable professors who, instead of transmitting good values to their students, teach them to be corrupt by asking them for gifts in exchange for passing grades?

What about the likes of Doña Victorina? Have we done away with women like her? Sad to say, she is still very much with us, in the persons of women concerned only with themselves and without a thought for their fellowmen.

How many Ben Zaybs do we have in media today—reporters who are insensitive to the truth and refuse to write about it because the powers-that-be might be displeased?

These characters are still with us. Only the names have changed.

Rizal's legacies

Rizal as a subject is a very powerful vehicle from which we can draw the best lessons. The national hero's intellectual legacy speaks of values every Filipino cannot fail to observe if he really cares for his country and people. He desired the uplift of human dignity. Thus, his primordial concern was the development of a total man.

"Deprive a man of his dignity and you will not only deprive him of his moral stamina but you also render him useless even to those who want to make use of him," Rizal said. "Every being in creation has his spur … his mainspring; man, his self-respect. Take it away from him and he becomes a corpse."

National unity

Rizal emphasized moral foundation, national sentiments, virtues and skills.

He championed the spirit of unity—his obsession, as proven by his statement: "I want to be everything except as a disturber of a union."

Regionalism disgusted him. "Do not stir up regionalism. If we have some good customs or virtues, it ought to be attributed to all provinces, to all sons of the Philippines. Instead of working to be a province, aspire to be a nation."

This kind of spirit of unity will put to shame some of our leaders today. For how many of them would not sacrifice the unity of the country so they could continue holding on to power while amassing wealth?

Godliness was also one virtue Rizal never abandoned even if he was accused of fighting the Catholic Church. Fifty years after RA 1425 was passed, are there proofs to show its relevance to the times? Is there a need for the Rizal course to be kept in the curriculum? Are the objectives of the law—awakening nationalism among the youth and developing their pride in their nation's heritage—being realized?

What students say

As a teacher, I have thought of a way to get the answers from my students. I require them to answer an opinionnaire. To get their most honest answers, I do not require them to write down their names. Here are their most common reactions:

- The course opened my eyes to the greatness of the Filipinos. It paved the way for me to give something of myself for the country.
- This course is for all time. Rizal's writings are comparable to the Bible—relevant to all generations.
- I discovered the defects of our people during Rizal's time—the same defects are still in existence until now. How can these be remedied? The cure is love of country. I found this in the pages of the novels of Rizal.
- I want to emulate his deeds, his love for the country, especially. This would not have been possible had I not enrolled in this subject.
- What an important subject! Knowing the injustices suffered by our ancestors, we would not want to experience the same. To avoid this, we should learn how to be nationalistic.
- The messages of Rizal are still very relevant today—for the youth to love their country and defend it and their rights as a people against any foreigner.

The lame boy

From among the thousands of students whose lives have been touched by Rizal, I will never forget a lame boy who told me: "My study of the life and works Rizal opened my mind to the importance of education. These works of Rizal … will be my torch to guide me in (my) new outlook of the world. I am physically handicapped, but this will not prevent me from being useful not only to myself and my family but also to my country. I desire to be of help to my country, to contribute whatever little things I can do in my country's march to progress."

How many of our countrymen endowed with knowledge and good health have the same dreams for the Philippines?

Gray hairs as thorns

What this physically challenged youth said reminds us of what Isagani, the idealistic youth in El Filibusterismo, stated before Señor Pasta, the selfish lawyer:

"If I have gray hairs like yours and I would look back to the past and I would remember that I only worked for my own selfish interest and I had not done anything good for my country, which had given me everything, and for my countrymen who helped me to live, then every gray hair that I have will serve as thorn which will give me shame instead of honor."

Rizalistas offer prayers

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

ARAYAT, PAMPANGA—LOVE FOR truth and justice is what Filipinos must remember of the values that Dr. Jose Rizal taught, according to a leader of a cult venerating the national hero as a god.

"Amang Hari (Rizal) is the science of truth, justice, wisdom and enlightenment," said Estanislao Malang, 71, as he addressed the more than 50 Rizalistas who gathered here on Sunday, the eve of Rizal's 145th birth anniversary.

Clad in white or pink robes, they assembled at the "Señor Ignacio Coronado Enchanted Mother Sinukuan Dr. Jose Protacio Rizal Universal Shrine," a less-than-a-hectare commune at the foothills of Mt. Arayat in Barangay Lacquios here.

"If Amang Hari was made the model of many leaders and other Filipinos, there would be no deceit, no corruption, no killings that are rampant now. We would be united and living in equality," Malang said in Filipino during the mid-day prayer rites.

Before going to a cubicle for meditation, he told the INQUIRER that Rizalismo, or the faith in Rizal, could serve as a "*salbabida* (life saver)" that Filipinos could cling onto so they would "not sink in a sea of disorder and helplessness."

Malang said they would just have to read Noli Me Tangere and El Filibusterismo to understand Rizal's teachings.

A Rizal admirer, envoy writes 2 poems for RP

From page A1

(For publication in the INQUIRER, Ludva had his works translated into English by professor Trinidad Regala of the University of the Philippines.)

In a piece titled "Manila," Ludva conveys a foreigner's pleasures of being in a city that wakes up in the morning as the "Orient's youthful lass," who then turns into a "sweet, mature mestiza" at noon, and then into a lover who "taste(s) of the West" at night.

Kiss her, he playfully writes, and one can savor aftertastes of *tinola* and *lechon*, flavors of rice and *leche flan*.

Gems of the Orient

In the second poem, "Gems of the Orient Seas (Joyas del Mar de Levante)," Ludva marvels at the three-island groups—Luzon, the Visayas and Mindanao—as fairytale princesses who promise a paradise for "sincere" lovers.

These "sisters by blood" should, therefore, not be touched "if intent's impure," he warns.

Ludva said he wrote the first poem in the same style that shaped "Mi Ultimo": Five lines per stanza, with a rhyme ending the first, third and fourth lines, and then another set of rhyme for the second and fifth.

The English versions were courtesy of Regala, a professor at the Department of European Languages, UP College of Arts & Letters, and lecturer at the Instituto Cervantes.

"I find inspiration in (this country's) past whose remains can be felt not only in many corners of Intramuros, but also in the old *tavernas* everywhere in the city as well as in rural areas," he said in a recent interview, when asked why he preferred to write in Spanish.

Preserve last moments

"The Spanish language is dying in the Philippines as it gives way to English," Ludva lamented. "Today, we can witness the last generation of native speakers in Manila, but it is still there, here, and I want to freeze it, put it on paper to preserve the very last moments of this lost world for both Filipinos and foreigners."

"(My wife and I) have developed special feelings for Spanish-speaking people, and your best example was Rizal himself who was a master of that language," said the ambassador, who had traveled much around Latin America and studied in Spain.

Assigned to the Philippines only last year, Ludva has Filipino friends that include families which still speak Spanish at home. He's also thankful local cable TV services carry a Spanish channel.

But sadly, Filipinos and South Americans have a lot in common—history, religion and mentality—"except the Spanish language," he noted.

Typical Latin city

For Ludva, the Philippines is "unique in Asia" because its Spanish heritage persists despite the spread of English over the last century. "Manila is typical Latin city," he opined.

"'I was a student in Madrid and many of those feelings I had over there I can feel again here."

In the poem, "Manila," Ludva reminds its denizens: "Though English you speak, it hides not your past."

Manila

The Orient's youthful lass at morn,
The sweet, mature mestiza at noon,
At night you taste of the West, dear lover.
From far away I come to bare you nude,
To relish such beauty grandiose.
Your kisses sate my mouth, and leave tastes of
Tinola and *lechon*, flavors of rice and *leche flan*.
I long to know you—not to molest, not abuse
I take your caprices, when at times, a thick veil you don,
A voyeur I am not, and all my respect you earn.
Though English you speak, it hides not your past.
You have courage, you have honor, you have charm.
Your Latin roots I have admired, since setting foot upon this land,
I do love you, my El Dorado*
A lost haven in Asia with a touch of Spain.

Manila

Por las mañanas una jovencita del levante,
Una mestiza dulce, madura, durante la siesta,
Por las noche sabes a poniente mi querida amante,
He venido desde lejos para desnudarte,
Para disfrutar de tu belleza augusta.
Tus besos me llenan la boca de regusto confuso,
Hay tinola, arroz, leche flan y lechon,
Quiero conocerte sin molestar, sin abuso,
Acepto tus caprichos, a veces te pones un velo grueso,
No te faltare el respeto, no soy un miron.
Hablas ingles pero se te nota tu pasado,
Tienes gracia, tienes honor, tienes valor,
Tu sangre latina desde mi llegada he admirado,
*Me gustas, eres mi El Dorado,**
Eres un rincon de Asia de sabor español.

*El Dorado, according to a legend on the Spanish conquest, refers to a territory in Latin America rich in gold and other precious stones. Hence, anything precious or of great value.

Gems of the Orient Seas

Sisters by blood, identical not,
A fairytale of three lovely lasses,
Princesses of the sea, virgins well-coddled,
Conceal their charm: such style, such mystique!
Three gems—Mindanao, Visayas, Luzon—
Enchant you, yet are not seduced.
You, when enamored, shall fail to flee;
Their innocence pure can burn, can benumb.
These women divine love or die;
So touch them not if intent's impure.
A promised paradise, for love sincere.
Oh, Filipinas: Gems of the Orient Seas!

Joyas del Mar de Levante

Hermanas de sangre, pero no identicas,
Un cuento de hadas sobre tres magas dalagas,
Princesas del mar, birhenes bien guardadas,
Cubren sus encantos, tienen estilo, son misticas.
Tres joyas—Mindanao, Visayas, Luzon,
Te atraen pero no se dejan seducir,
Una vez te enamoras no puedes huir,
Te quema y congela su desnudez de requeson.
Es amar o morir, son mujeres divinas,
No puedes tocarles sin compromiso,
Si cumples tu palabra te ofrecen el paraiso,
Son joyas del mar de levante, las Islas Filipinas.

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I
Wag mong dibdibin
Mga problema mo
Isipin mong ito
Ay kayang-kaya mo
Tulad ko, tulad mo
Kaya nating lahat ito
Sabayan niyo ako, sama-sama tayo

CHORUS 1
Tayo nang magkantahan,
Habang nagsasayawan
Problema'y malilimutan,
Ito ang ating kailangan
XTREME XTREME MAGIC SING!

II
Tayo'y magsaya,
Kalimutan muna ang problema
Magkantahan tayo
Kahit hanggang umaga
Si tatay, si nanay, si ate at si kuya
Kasama ang lahat ng buong pamilya

(Repeat Chorus 1)
(Bridge: Instrumental)
(Repeat II)

CHORUS 2
Iba ang XTREME MAGIC SING,
Lalo akong gumagaling
Champion din sa kantahan,
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No bidding in PNP purchases worth ₱322M

From page A1

agreed to share his information with the INQUIRER on condition of anonymity because he did not want to jeopardize his relations with his colleagues.

"It (justification) might not have been within the ambit of Republic Act No. 9184 (the Government Procurement Reform Act)," he said.

RA 9184 provides for alternative modes of purchasing subject to the prior approval of the head of the procuring entity or his duly authorized representative.

Whenever justified by the conditions provided for in the act, the procuring entity may, in order to promote economy and efficiency, resort to alternative methods of procurement.

5 alternatives

There are five alternatives to public bidding under the law—limited source bidding or selective bidding, direct contracting, repeat order, shopping, and negotiated procurement.

Two of the most applicable conditions under negotiated procurement are as follows:

- In case of imminent danger to life or property during a state of calamity, or when time is of the essence arising from natural or man-made calamities or other causes where immediate action is necessary to prevent damage to or loss of life or property, or to restore vital public services, infrastructure facilities and other public utilities;
- Takeover of contracts, which have been rescinded or terminated for causes provided for in the contract and existing laws, where immediate action is necessary to prevent damage to or loss of life or property, or to restore vital public services, infrastructure facilities and other public utilities.

Not covered

The source said international events like the Asean summit were not covered by these requirements.

"Coordination made by the Directorate for Logistics with the secretariat of this committee disclosed that the programmed patrol cars are urgently needed because (they) should be used initially in connection with the activities related to the 12th Asean Summit," one of the resolutions said.

"If the patrol cars will be procured through public bidding, the period needed to complete the process is estimated at 120 calendar days, inclusive of the three months mentioned in Section 38 of RA 9184 within which to open the bids and award the contract," it said.

Cebu meeting

But the 120 days does not include the period of delivery, which usually takes around 90 days, the documents said.

It would take 210 days or seven months to complete the bidding and delivery processes, the BAC said.

This means the patrol cars will not reach their destinations, including Cebu province where the main meeting shall be held, before the arrival of the bulk of delegates. A series of meetings at the ministerial level began in May.

Above-ground

Director Noe Wong, chief of the PNP Directorate for Logistics, confirmed that the police opted for a negotiated procurement and direct contracting to avoid delays.

"They are all above-ground (transactions), no shenanigans," he told the INQUIRER.

One dealer was chosen to supply the PNP with Japanese-made patrol cars because it had been supplying the agency with vehicles, according to Wong. The dealer also has numerous branches nationwide, making it the most accessible firm when it comes to "services and maintenance."

"All our logistical (procurement) is now geared toward the Asean summit in December. There will be 10 heads of state, 10 economic ministers and 10 foreign ministers (attending), excluding their staff," Wong said.

Organizers of the summit had required from the police hundreds of patrol cars, motorcycles, antiriot gear and 888 pieces of hand-held communication equipment, Wong said.

But the police received the P1 billion only in April. Hence, the decision to use the faster route of acquiring the vehicles and equipment through negotiated procurement and direct contracting, he said.

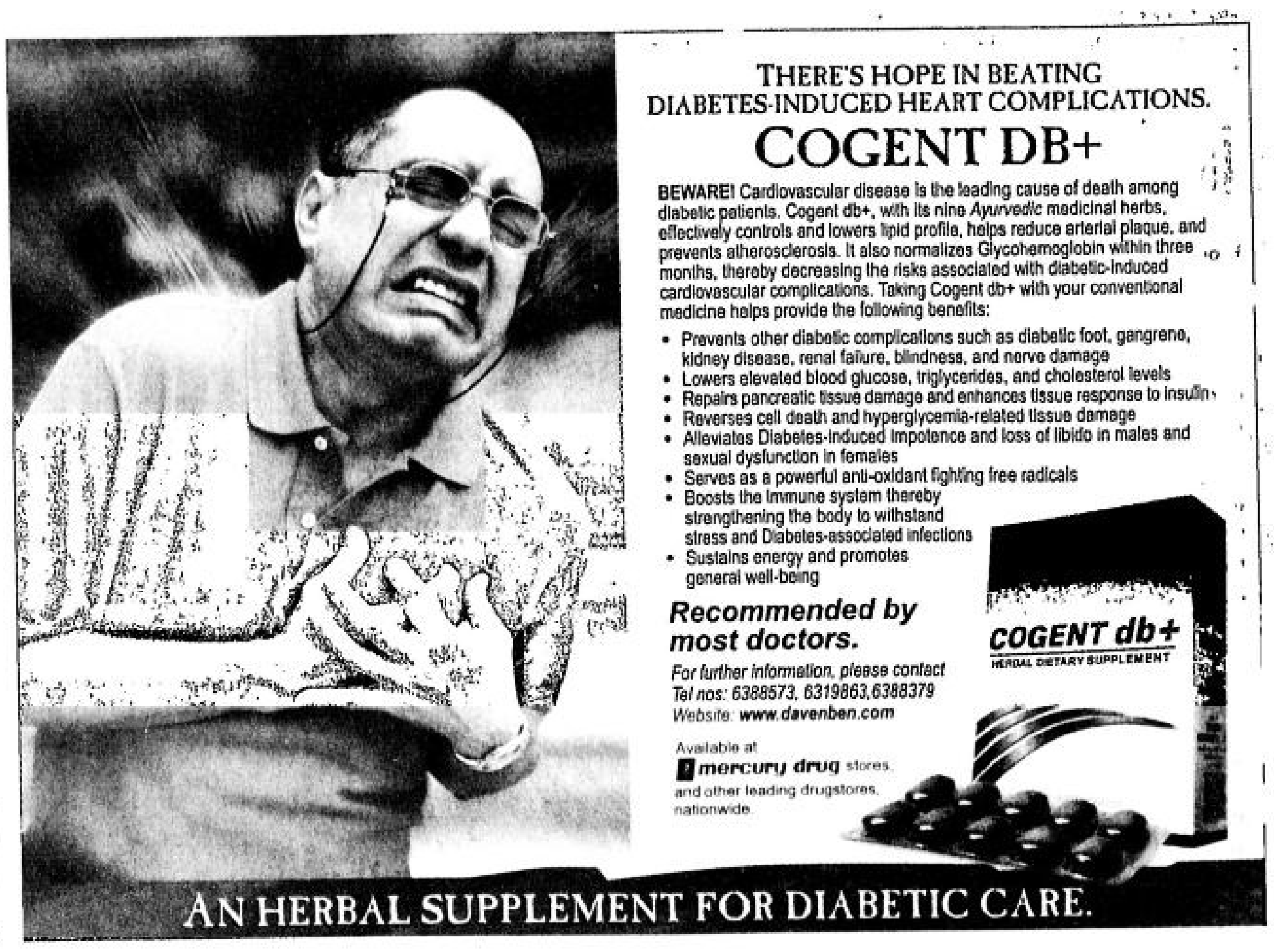
Bottom line

"The bottom line is the (date of the) release of the money," said Chief Insp. Ermilando Villafuerte, secretary of the BAC and head of a research unit at PNP Legal Services.

Under the law, a government office can only begin to procure supplies or equipment when the Department of Budget and Management has certified that there is money for it, Villafuerte said.

While it is true that the hosting of international events or similar activities is not specifically cited as one of the conditions for negotiated procurement under RA 9184, the Government Accounting and Auditing Manual allows it "whenever the supplies are to be used in connection with a project or activity which cannot be delayed without causing detriment to the public service," the BAC secretary said.

He said the security of the Asean summit was an obligation of the PNP.



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Lawyers to test limits of gov't no-rally policy

By Tina G. Santos

MEMBERS OF A LAWYERS' GROUP HAVE vowed to assert their rights to free speech and assembly at Mendiola which had been turned into a no-rally zone by the authorities because of its proximity to Malacañang.

The Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP) applied for a rally permit at the office of Manila Mayor Lito Atienza last Thursday.

Lawyer Jose Anselmo Cadiz, IBP president, said they intended to hold the protest action to be participated in by IBP members, law students and multisectoral groups at the Chino Roces (Mendiola) Bridge on June 22 at 2:30 p.m.

Cadiz said the event will "commemorate and assert our freedoms of assembly and of expression, which are sacred fundamental rights guaranteed by [the] Bill of Rights under our Constitution."

Cadiz said participants will assemble at Claro M. Recto Avenue in front of the University of the East campus at 1:30 p.m. before marching to Mendiola.

"A program will be held at the foot of the bridge facing Legarda and Recto Streets," he said. He assured the authorities, however, that the protesters will not cross the bridge.

Cadiz also assured Mayor Atienza that order would be maintained in their ranks and their program would end by 5:30 p.m.

Atienza has yet to act on the IBP's application, but in earlier interviews, the mayor maintained Mendiola was a no-rally zone because apart from its proximity to Malacañang, there were a number of schools in the vicinity.

Atienza also said protesters should not insist on holding mass actions at Mendiola which "has been the site of confrontational situations that have not been good for the country."

He recalled the "Mendiola Massacre" of 1987 where 17 farmers were killed in one of the bloodiest police dispersal operations in the country.

"In normal times, we could have allowed it. But we have a different situation now," Atienza said.

Last week, 500 militant farmers protesting what they called "a bogus land reform program" clashed with Manila's antiriot police at the Mendiola bridge.

The city government said rallies would only be allowed in Manila's freedom parks, including the Liwasang Bonifacio, Luneta, Bonifacio Shrine and Plaza Miranda.

But Cadiz was optimistic Atienza "will take a second look at (our request) and I think we have explained very well in our letter that there is really nothing wrong with holding a rally at Mendiola."

He said they preferred Mendiola over the freedom parks because of the place's historical value.

"(Mendiola) is symbolic and we think it is wrong for the government to absolutely ban rallies and programs even at the foot of Mendiola bridge. It should not be declared a no-rally zone," Cadiz said.

This 'ukay-ukay' shipment didn't make it to stores

SAN FERNANDO, LA UNION—THE BUREAU of Customs here seized some P5 million worth of *ukay-ukay* (used clothing and footwear) in 700 boxes that were being transported to Baguio City in two 40-ft container vans last Wednesday.

Edward Baltazar, customs district collector, said BOC agents and operatives from the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group stopped the container vans on the Badiwan section of the Marcos Highway in Tuba, Benguet.

The drivers of the two vans were detained when they failed to produce documents covering their cargo. Their vehicles were escorted to the customs office at the port.

Baltazar said the goods were shipped from Hong Kong and entered the country through the Manila International Container Port (MICP). A brokerage firm based in Intramuros, Manila, facilitated its release.

An investigation is now focusing on employees from the BOC central office assigned to the MICP who apparently allowed the release of the illegal shipment.

The importation of used clothing, unless cleared and approved by the Department of Social Welfare and Development, is prohibited under Republic Act No. 4763. The penalty for the violation is at least six years in prison.

The boxes where the used clothing and footwear were packed were sealed with packing tape and bore names like "Kat," "Pablo" and "Lyl," including mobile phone numbers. *Peter La. Julian, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

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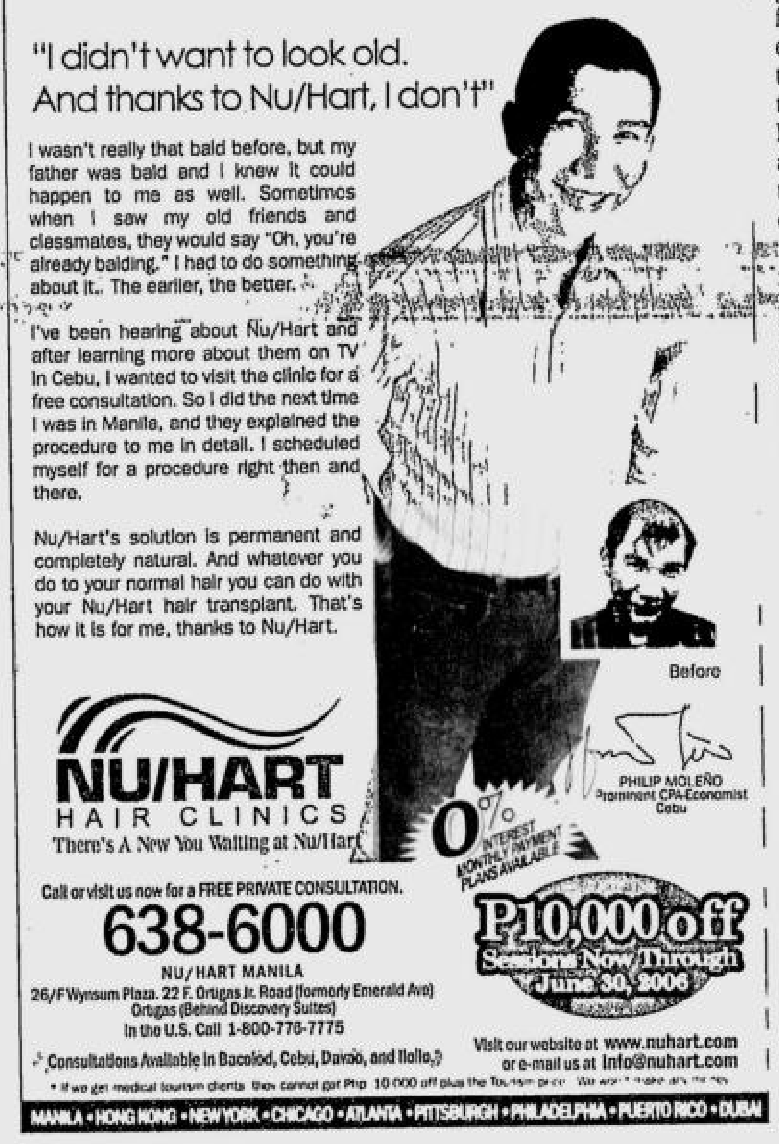
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Colonel hit for painting reporter Red

COTABATO CITY – THE NATIONAL UNION OF Journalists in the Philippines (NUJP) has assailed an Army colonel for saying that a radio reporter in North Cotabato was a communist.

The NUJP said it was alarmed by the claim made by Col. John Oswald Bucu, commander of the Army's 40th Infantry Battalion, because it could endanger the life of Malu Manar of station dxND in Kidapawan City.

The NUJP pointed out that most of the media persons murdered in the last few years had been alleged to belong to leftist groups.

Manar has filed a complaint with the Army's 602nd Infantry Brigade against Bucu for branding her a card-carrying member of the New People's Army (NPA), the armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines.

Manar said Bucu uttered the allegation during a press conference in Kidapawan City on June 7.

"Malu is an NPA. She should accept that. Communists are now accepted anyway," she quoted Bucu as saying.

Bucu denied having said Manar was a member of the NPA.

Jeoffrey Maitem, PDI Mindanao Bureau

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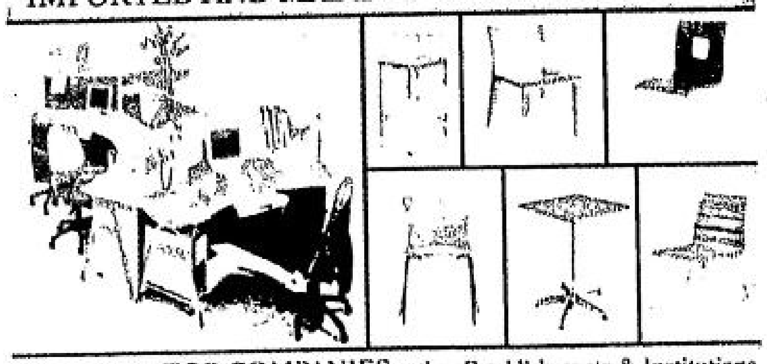
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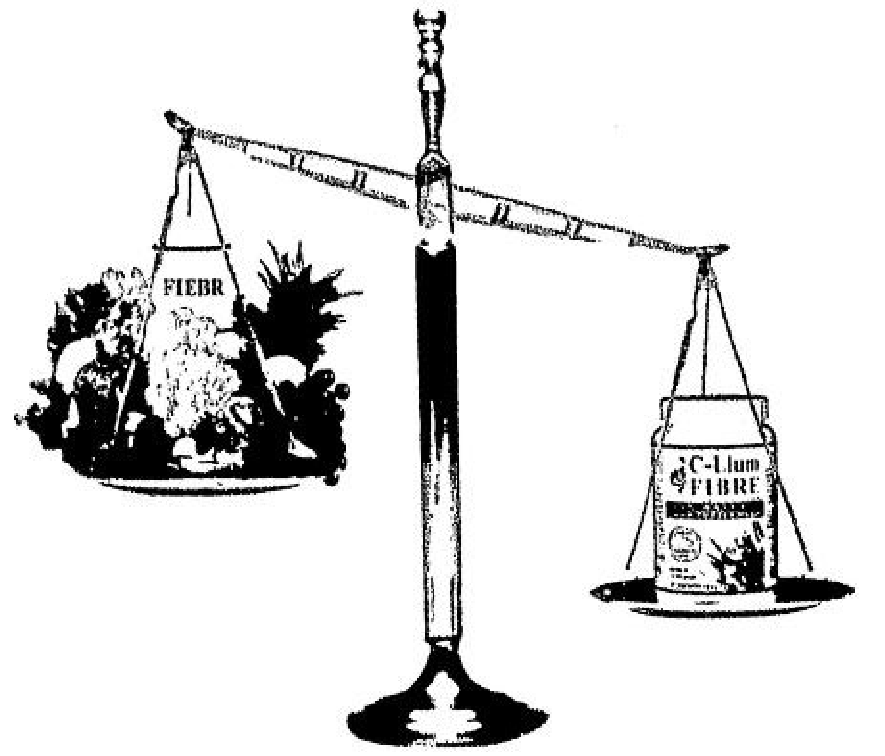

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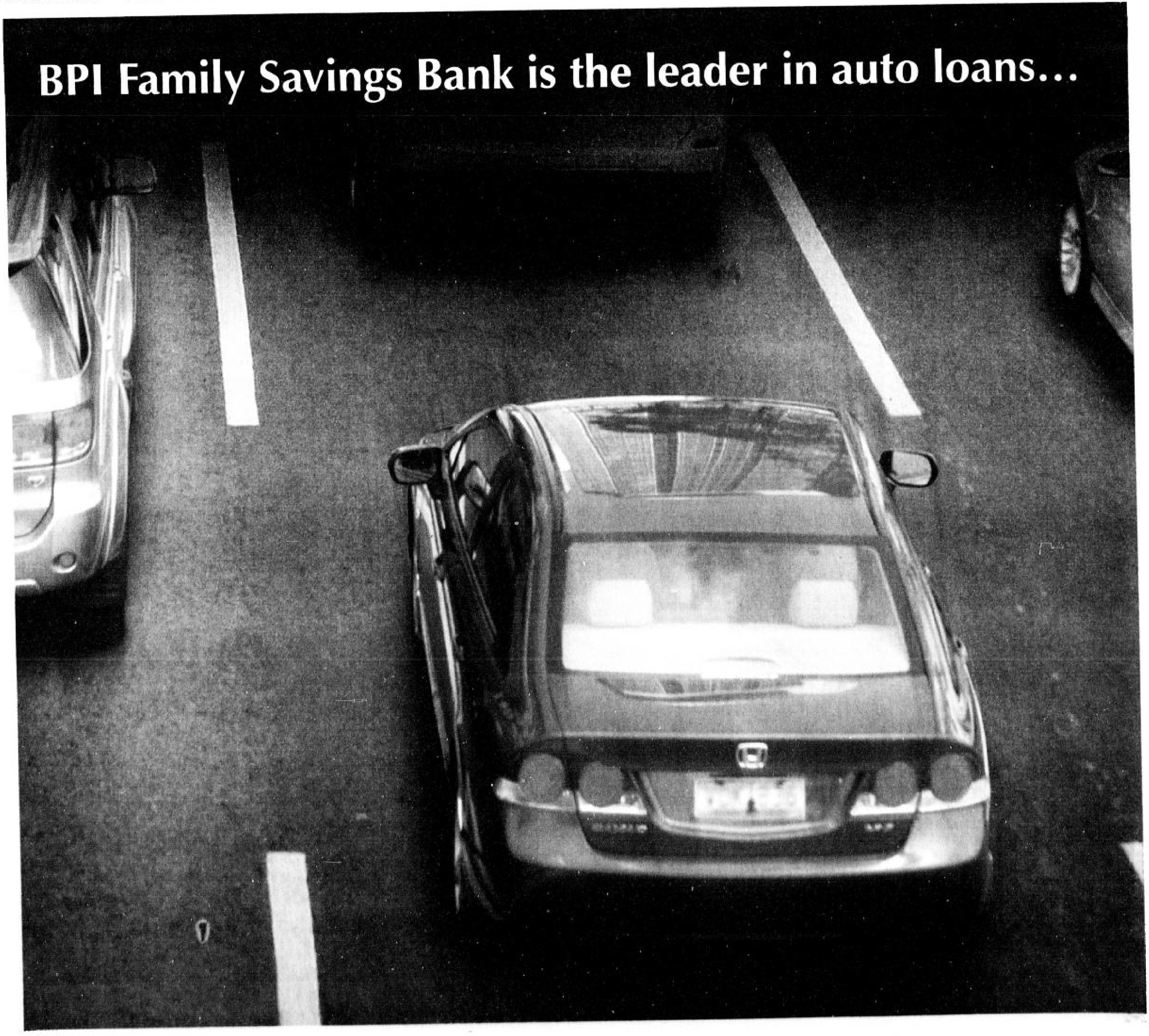
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DepEd blinks, halts controversial sex module

By Alcuin Papa

THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION HAS pulled out for now a controversial sex education module from the public schools after the powerful Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) objected to its content.

Education Assistant Secretary Vilma Labrador said DepEd Officer in Charge Fe Hidalgo had ordered the distribution of the module immediately halted.

"(DepEd OIC) Fe Hidalgo ordered a stop to the distribution of the module after getting feedback," Labrador told reporters in a phone interview.

Labrador said that, so far, the public high schools in only two areas in Metro Manila had received the modules as "pilot" areas in the sex education program.

"Before we circulate them [modules] we needed to get feedback. So we've been receiving a lot of comments," Labrador said.

Hidalgo's earlier suggestion that CBCP leaders meet with DepEd officials to discuss the matter last week was well received but the meeting was moved to this week due to scheduling conflicts, Labrador said.

Hidalgo has denied the public school system was promoting premarital sex with its teachings about condoms and other contraceptives.

She said the emphasis of the subject on reproductive health was the consequences of engaging in premarital sex. The goal, she said, is to discourage, rather than encourage, the sexual act among the unmarried young.

But in a letter to Hidalgo, Dr. Angelita Aguirre, head of Human Life International of the CBCP's Episcopal Commission on Family and Life, said they found the inclusion of sex education in the high schools "disturbing."

The subject, Aguirre wrote, is devoid of "full disclosure and truth-telling" because it fails to inform the students that a condom does not guarantee 100-percent protection from sexually transmitted diseases.

The teaching module obtained by the CBCP showed the DepEd was integrating population education in such subjects as Health, English, Filipino, Araling Panlipunan, science and even technology and livelihood education.

In the foreword to the module, Hidalgo said that "information and services should be made available to adolescents to help them understand their sexuality and protect them from unwanted pregnancies, sexually transmitted diseases and the subsequent risk of infertility."

Moreover, Hidalgo said, the "reproductive health needs of this group should be based on information that helps them attain a level of maturity required to make responsible decisions."

But the module, Aguirre countered, could create the wrong impression and encourage teenagers to try premarital sex. She said sex education was better left to the parents.

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European studes raise 4,000 euros for toilets, other needs of RP kids

By Nikko Dizon

GERMAN AND DUTCH SCHOOL CHILDREN have donated a total of 4,000 euros (P268,000) for two separate environmental projects in the Philippines, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) said.

Students from the Carousel elementary school, located in the city of Gouda in the Netherlands, raised 2,000 euros (P134,000) for the building of ecological sanitation toilets in two schools in Barangay Nagyubuyuban, San Fernando, La Union.

The building of these environment-friendly toilets in San Fernando is a program of a Dutch nongovernment organization, called WASTE and the Center for Advanced Philippine Studies (CAPS), the DFA said.

WASTE has been assisting poor communities in Batangas and La Union in terms of solid waste management and sanitation since 1990.

Carousel's pupils, their parents and teachers sold cookies, coffee and tea, and staged sports competitions as part of their fundraising for the WASTE-CAP project.

The staff and students made the symbolic turnover of funds to Romeo Arguelles, Philippine ambassador to The Hague who visited the school on June 8.

The following day, Philippine Ambassador to Germany Delia Albert received a symbolic check of 2,000 euros from Princess Gisela of Saxony, Germany, during the celebration of the 2nd Green Children's Day in the city of Leipzig.

The amount was raised by Leipzig school children for the Philippine Biodiversity Conservation Center (BCC) of the Negros Forest Ecological Foundation Inc. (NFEFI).

The students also adopted two Visayan leopards that were recently brought to Germany. The princess and the ambassador named the leopards "Mira" and "Mauricio" from a shortlist of names proposed by the students.

Green Children's Day is part of German school children's environmental education called "The Green Thread," under the auspices of the Saxonian Foundation for Nature and Environment.

It is financially supported by the German Federal Foundation for Environment, the Saxonian Minister for Environment and Agriculture and the Saxonian Minister for Cultural Affairs.

"The project combines practical environmental conservation with experimental environmental education in Germany, which is taught as early as kindergarten," the DFA said.

Impressed by the program, Albert suggested an exchange program with Philippine schools "as well as a sharing of expertise in curriculum development in environmental education for young children," the DFA said.

Internet cafes eyed as satellite school rooms

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS CONSIDER them the nuisances but, for a militant group, computer shops and Internet cafes could boost the quality of education in the public schools.

The militant Kabataan Party said computer shops could actually help reduce computer shortages in the public schools.

"Instead of seeing these computer shops as notorious game arcades that lure students and promote bad study habits, school and government officials should maximize the resources of these shops to trim down the computer shortage and improve the quality of education," Kabataan Party president Raymond Palatino said.

School administrators have complained about the proliferation of Internet cafes around schools, claiming they promoted violent computer games and enticed students to cut classes.

In a statement, Palatino said that these computer shops near schools should instead be made part of the computer curriculum of the schools.

He said school administrators should consider forging ties with these computer shops and make them partners in education. For example, the computers in these shops could be rented by the schools for their computer classes.

"School officials should not treat these computer shops as enemies but as potential partners in education. In this day and age, our schools should experiment more with different means of learning," Palatino said.

Palatino said schools could avail of the services of these computer shops to promote interactive and alternative learning while allowing these establishments to operate near their campuses.

He said this was a temporary solution to the computer shortage being experienced in all public schools in the country.

He said that computer shop owners could do their share by prohibiting students from their shops during class hours, except during the allotted time for interactive learning and other subjects that require computer usage.

Palatino said not all computer games were violent and useless. He said some of them could be integrated into the curriculum, adding that some games could actually be beneficial to students and be effective means of expression and representation.

He cited a study made by the Institute of Education in London University which showed that "games literacy" could enhance learning and was a key skill for school children.

"Not all computer games are dense and violent. There are educational games and simulations which enhance critical thinking and can be venues for students to apply the theories and lectures they've learned in class at least through 3-D animation while promoting creativity," Palatino said. *Alcuin Papa*

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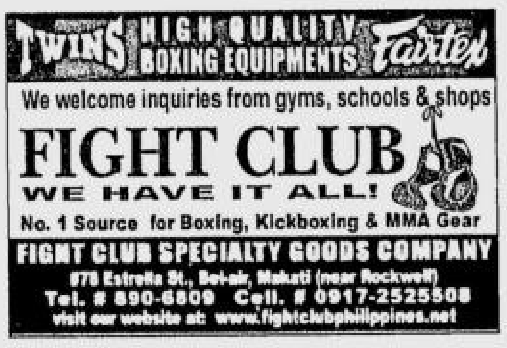
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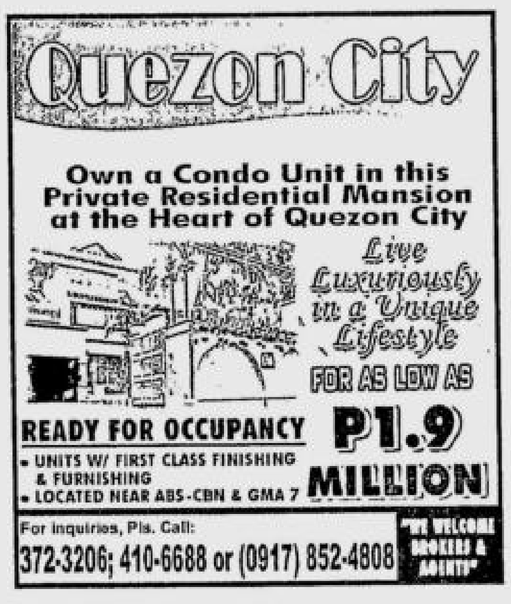
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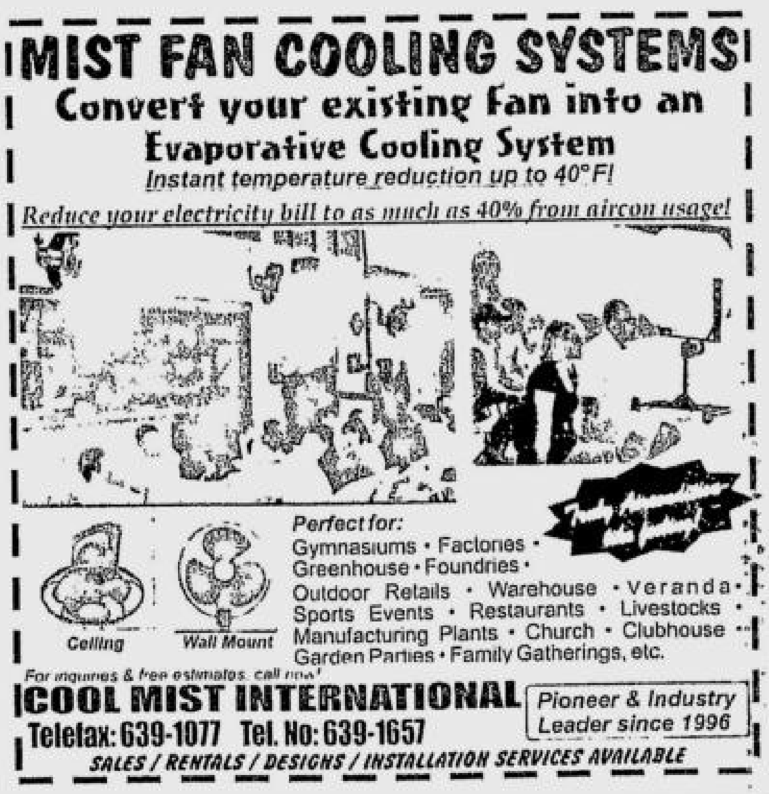
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SAVINGS FOR MODERNIZATION

AFP to cut force by half if Reds are crushed

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

FORT DEL PILAR, BAGUIO CITY—Winning the war against the communist and Islamic rebels would enable the military to cut its force by 50 percent and use its savings to buy modern war equipment, a military official said here.

Lt. Gen. Antonio Romero II, Armed Forces of the Philippines vice chief of staff, said President Macapagal-Arroyo's new time frame to solve the insurgency problem would mean that half of the AFP's 100,000 personnel could be retrenched after 2008.

Romero, who spoke at the incorporation of 286 freshmen cadets into the Philippine Military Academy's Cadet Corps on Saturday, said this would allow the AFP to immediately shift its resources for external defense.

"If we finish with the insurgency [problem] then we can reduce our troops ... by 50 percent. In essence [the military] needs only a few [personnel] so the money could be diverted to external defense," he said.

"As you modernize, your reliance on human beings is lessened when you acquire more equipment."

New timetable welcome

Romero recalled that troop strength during martial law under the late President Ferdinand Marcos was "less than 50,000."

He said Ms Arroyo's new deadline was welcome because it would speed up the purchase of badly needed military hardware.

Romero, who chairs the committee implementing the AFP's modernization plan, said the military increased troop recruitment in the 1970s to fight communist rebels and extremist groups.

Ms Arroyo has vowed to finish off the communist rebellion within her term, saying the AFP's time frame of 10 years was "too long."

Not that easy

Ms Arroyo also said she would release P1 billion to enable the military to buy helicopters.

But that's easier said than done, Romero said.

He said the AFP, in drafting its modernization plan, took into account the peace negotiations with the NPA and with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front when it programmed the purchase of modern equipment in six tranches over the first six years.

Each tranche requires P5 billion to accomplish, Romero said, adding the AFP took stock of the country's economic condition, its annual budgetary restrictions and the potential reduction of armed conflicts as a result of the peace efforts.

P1B not enough?

The initial tranches were devoted to purchasing military equipment, like communication gear.

"[The latest allocation of] P1 billion will be easily consumed. We need a lot of equipment, not necessarily for the modernization of the Armed Forces but for combating insurgents right now," he said.

The military's wish list includes vehicles, automatic weapons and communication equipment, Romero said.

GMA's hardline...

From page A1

tiative was visionary and involved fundamental political reforms.

Ms Arroyo ends the first half of her term this year. We shall know before the end of 2006 whether the constitutional reform policy initiative will take off in whatever form. Constitutional change was billed as a historic legacy of a reformist presidency that sadly has lost its aura of electoral legitimacy early in its term by being embroiled in ethical issues associated with making telephone calls to an election official over the poll results.

More than political war

In contrast to the Cha-cha initiative, the Isabela initiative is punitive and is more than a political war. It engages the Arroyo administration in expanded armed conflict with the communist movement, with an intensity unseen since the Marcos regime's crackdown on the insurgents in the 1960s and 1970s.

Marcos used the leftist insurgency as a mobilizing issue to build a coalition for an authoritarian order and as an excuse to legitimize the declaration of martial law.

Ms Arroyo declared in Isabela "the fight against the Left remains the glue that binds," in the first of her meetings of four regional mega-zones to launch developmental projects.

The launch in Isabela has ideological and symbolic significance. It is one of the three critical areas with festering active armed insurgency.

Emphasizing the mailed fist of the policy, Ms Arroyo directed the release of P1 billion to buy attack helicopters and aircraft and earmarked P75 billion for investment and socioeconomic projects in the north Luzon mega-region for the next three years. A day after the Isabela meeting, Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan, commander of the 7th Infantry Division in Central Luzon, launched expanded military operations against the New People's Army.

Signs of policy shift

Several signs preceded the Isabela declaration suggesting that the hardline policy shift was not a spur of the moment. It was preceded by the killing over the past three years of several hundred legal leftists by unidentified death squads.

Last week, defense and security officials announced the government was preparing to file murder charges against Jose Ma. Sison, founder of the Communist Party of the Philippines who is based in The Netherlands, for the killing in 2003 and 2004 of some senior party leaders.

Latest military estimates place the NPA membership at 7,000. It peaked at 25,200 members in 1987, a year after President Corazon Aquino was installed following the 1986 "people power" uprising. Membership dropped to a low of 6,025 in 1992 but in 1998, the military noted a resurgence, with NPA membership surging to 16,616 fighters.

The significance of Ms Arroyo's hardline shift on the communist movement is that it has reversed the trend toward the legalization of the party and drawing their members into the parliamentary arena through the party-list representation.

This hardline shift and the salience of the anticommunist campaign call for explanations.

'Last card'

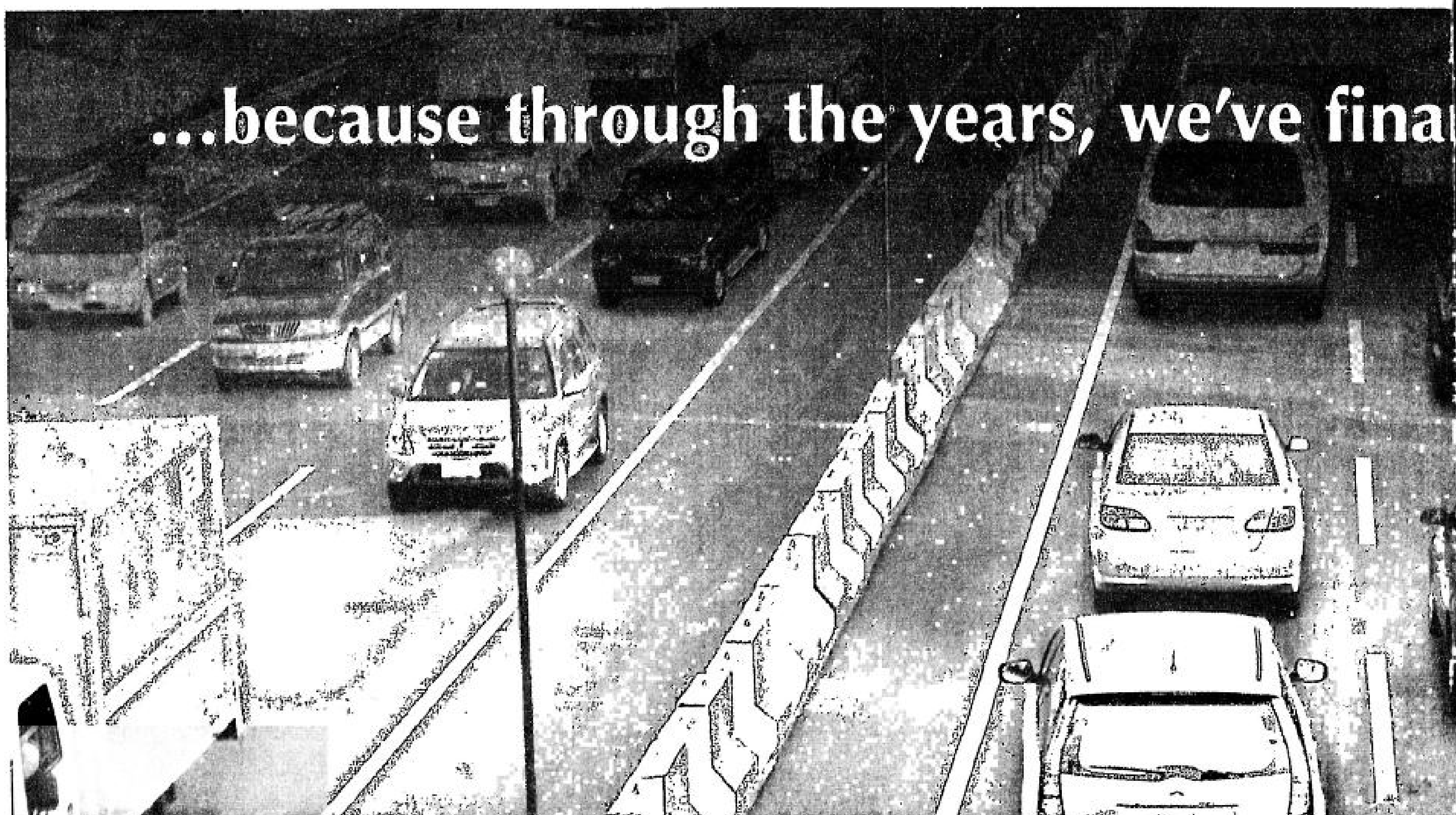
One perspective suggests that Ms Arroyo is playing militarism as a "last card," to ensure regime survival as she continues to be rocked by the "crisis of legitimacy."

If this explanation is correct, a related point is that dependence on military factions for support against political challenges in civil society makes her regime more vulnerable to military coups and blackmail.

Anticommunism has never helped any administration since Marcos as a mobilizing issue for broader political support. It did not when the communist takeover threat was high. There is no such dire concern now.

It is, therefore, a false issue for popular coalition building. Historically, the anticommunist scare has made administration hostage to alliance with the military for regime maintenance and survival.

Ms Arroyo is unlikely to have any more success than previous leaders in crushing the communist insurgency. More likely, the anticommunist hardline policy will crush her administration more than it will the insurgency.



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Loss of lives unavoidable, says Gonzalez

PRESIDENT Arroyo presides over the Joint Regional Development Council and Cabinet meeting at Isabela Hotel, Cauayan, Isabela. LYN RILLON

From page A1

royo administration, according to an INQUIRER tally.

"*Giingnan na bitaw ka nga hunong na sa imong trabaho* (I already warned you to stop your work)," a witness said he overheard the unidentified assassin telling the 26-year-old Marata before he shot him four times in the head and face.

Again, a motorcycle

Relatives said Marata was on a tricycle when the gunman flagged it down, told the driver to get off and then fired at the church worker.

Witnesses said the gunman fled on a blue Honda motorcycle, in the pattern of previous assassinations of activists who were gunned down by motorcycle-riding killers.

"Tito worked to help bring justice to the people. If people like him are killed, what will happen to us?" said the victim's sister, Luz Espinosa. "The government should stop the killings."

The attacks on militants have escalated despite a pronouncement by the Commission on Human Rights that the government ultimately is accountable for the killings because it has a duty to protect its citizens, and amid calls from London-based Amnesty International for the administration to disband armed groups operating "with (official) acquiescence."

Militants have said the killing of activists was part of a clandestine security plan called "Oplan Bantay Laya," which aims to stamp out the insurgency during Ms Aquino's term.

Different timetables

Administration officials gave seemingly confusing statements on the timetable Ms Arroyo had set for defeating the insurgency.

Ms Arroyo's chief of staff, Michael Defensor, earlier said the President wanted the NPA threat eliminated in "critical areas" in one to two years.

But in a statement released by his Partido Demokratiko Sosyalista ng Pilipinas, National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales said "it may take a bit longer, perhaps five years, before the insurgency menace is fully eliminated."

Vice President Noli de Castro, for his part, said he was seated beside Ms Arroyo when she expressed her intention before the Cabinet of putting down the communist rebellion during her term.

Told of Defensor's statement, De Castro quipped: "*Mali ang* arithmetic *ni* Mike Defensor (His arithmetic is wrong)."

Baseless fears?

Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas secretary general Danilo Ramos blamed Marata's murder on the administration.

"Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is on the warpath and her allotment of P1 billion for the Armed Forces of the Philippines immediately claimed a life. Her announcement ... has definitely emboldened them," Ramos said, referring to supposed military-backed "death squads" targeting militants.

Justice Secretary Gonzalez dismissed the fears of the leftist groups that the military's expanded war on communist rebels would lead to more human rights abuses.

"All these things are figments of their imagination," Gonzalez said in a telephone interview. He also stressed that "the defense of the state is the prime responsibility of the government."

Carrot and stick

A security official said the government's so-called endgame strategy against the Communist Party of the Philippines and the NPA involved offering an "economic package" to the rebels at some point.

Together with sustained military operations and legal offensives against rebel leaders, the government will put in place a strategy called DDR—disarmament, demobilization and reintegration.

The strategy has been adopted by other nations with insurgency problems, said the official who helped draw up the plan.

"But first, you have to decapitate, dismantle the leadership. Then we can take care of the rank and file," the official said.

This explains the filing of criminal charges against exiled CPP founder Jose Ma. Sison.

The DDR strategy would cost the government billions of pesos but would hopefully end the costlier problem of the armed conflict in the countryside, the official said.

Huge funding

"This will require a huge financial outlay and the Philippine government is now courting two to three foreign countries to help out," the official said.

Specific programs to accomplish the strategy have been laid out and they will be implemented by stages, he said.

The Cabinet security cluster, which includes the interior and defense departments, National Security Agency and senior Cabinet members, believes the government can end the insurgency problem within three to five years, the official said.

"We will offer amnesty but before amnesty, (rebels) should disarm and be reintegrated. Amnesty and the economic package will come together," he said.

PNP part of it, too

"If, for example, you have 10,000 rebels, how do you reintegrate them so they become productive members of society? So there is an economic package. There is financial assistance," the official said.

The plan to end the insurgency within the next few years also explains why the Philippine National Police has adopted new tacks against the NPA, he said.

The police announced early this year that they would now take part in strikes against NPA lairs. This calls for joint operations with the military.

Simultaneously, the police have been encouraging law enforcers all over the country to file charges against rebels.

Pimentel warning

"We will be using survivors and victims as complainants," the official said.

Ms Arroyo has announced she would influse an extra P1 billion into the effort to finish off the insurgents.

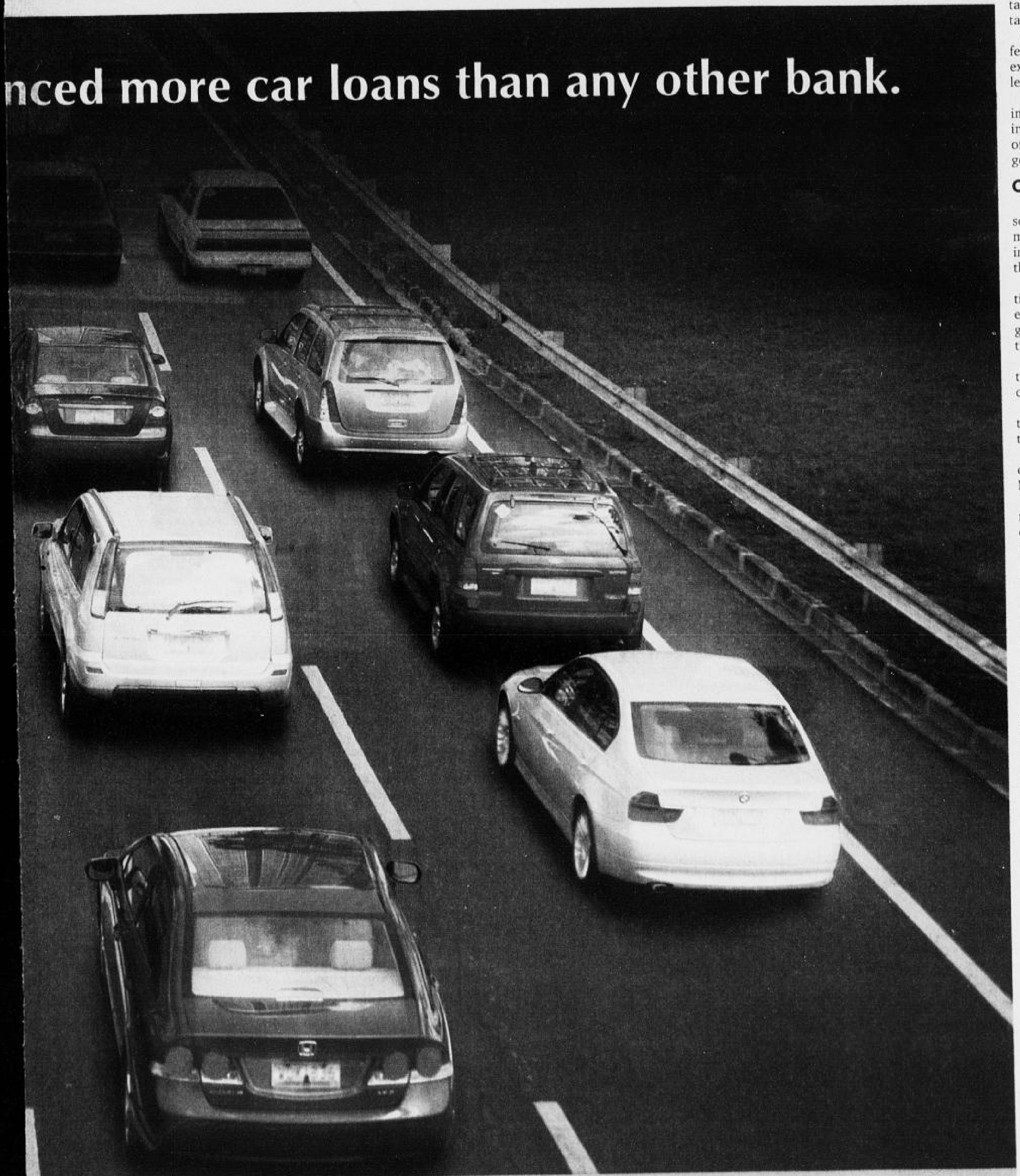
But Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. warned yesterday the government's "endgame plan"' against communist rebels could lead to the killing of more activists and innocent civilians.

"If the objective of Oplan Bantay Laya is the insurgency, that's OK. But what I'm afraid of is that innocent civilians will be caught in the crossfire," Pimentel said in a phone interview.

Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile viewed the government's new strategy as a "step in the right direction" but cautioned the military against resorting to the indiscriminate killing of noncombatants.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye urged the people to support the administration's bid to crush the communist insurgency, saying the "terror" it had inflicted on the country for decades now "can no longer be ignored."

With reports from Blanche S. Rivera, Cynthia D. Balana ,TJ Burgonio and Christine O. Avendaño in Manila, Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau, and PDI Research



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OPINION

Ate Glue

EDITORIAL

IF PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO DOES NOT yet realize that her crisis of legitimacy mutated her street nickname from the familiar "Ate Glo" to the sarcastic "Ate Glue," well, she will by now. But instead of merely suggesting that she will hang on to power any which way she can, the shorthand by which many people have taken to calling her has another meaning now: Ate Glue is the President who believes that "the fight against the Left is the glue that binds."

This Elmer's glue policy explains a lot of what has happened since the Hello Garci wiretapping scandal exploded a year ago, and much that will happen in the days to come. It is, as we emphasized yesterday, the Arroyo administration's ultimate survival strategy, in black and white.

It explains the resolve with which both the administration and the defense establishment are pursuing peace with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front. We have always believed that negotiating an honorable peace with the country's largest separatist movement was both possible and necessary. But it is still a strange sight to see the defense secretary and the foreign secretary compete in a friendly race to predict the date of the peace agreement. (They are betting on Ramadan this year.) This official optimism comes after many years of semi-official skepticism. Why the change of heart?

The principal reason must lie in the Elmer's glue policy: The military top brass must have been finally convinced that it was really time to concentrate the government's counter-insurgency efforts on the communist threat—to fight, metaphorically speaking, on one and only one front.

It also explains the administration's continuing attempt to narrow democratic space—through the use of the so-called calibrated preemptive response policy, the issuance of Presidential Proclamation 1017, and even the deployment of certain intemperate but strategic remarks by key public officials. The object, it is clear now, has always been to equate protest actions and opposition with political extremism—to tar all critics of the Arroyo administration with the disreputable brush of communism. The idea is to raise the cost of a return to the streets (and thus the possibility of another detour through Edsa) by increasing the risk to reputation (the middle forces) or to life and limb (the militant groups).

It explains the rise to official prominence of ideological generals like Jovito Palparan, the commanding officer of the 7th Infantry Division responsible for deploying so-called urban armies in the towns and cities of Central Luzon.

It represents the triumph (yet again) of the reactionary strain in the armed services, and the retreat of progressive soldiers who had put much faith in the party-list innovation.

This is a grave setback for the country's democratic project. Instead of welcoming above-ground political participation, Palparan officers see no difference between communist rebels and those who have left the armed struggle; by accident or design, they want to drive ex-rebels back to the hills. (It also explains the cowardly silence of politicos like Speaker Jose de Venecia, who once spoke eloquently of the virtues of engagement and the parliamentary struggle.)

Not least, the policy explains one of the worst crises to hit the country in the Arroyo years: The harassment, torture and murder of hundreds of leftist activists. But whereas the so-called war on terror seemed to sanction the violence in the aftermath of Sept. 11, the administration's survival is today's rationalization. The bloodletting reminds us of a Napoleonic maxim: "Where the government is weak, military sway prevails."

All this fills us with foreboding. One of the country's most common forms of drug addiction is "rugby"-sniffing, the inhalation of toluene-carrying substances like paint thinners and adhesives. We are afraid that, in her growing dependence on the glue that binds her to the armed services, the President is herself turning into an addict. She smells the toluene, and throws caution to the (whirl)wind.

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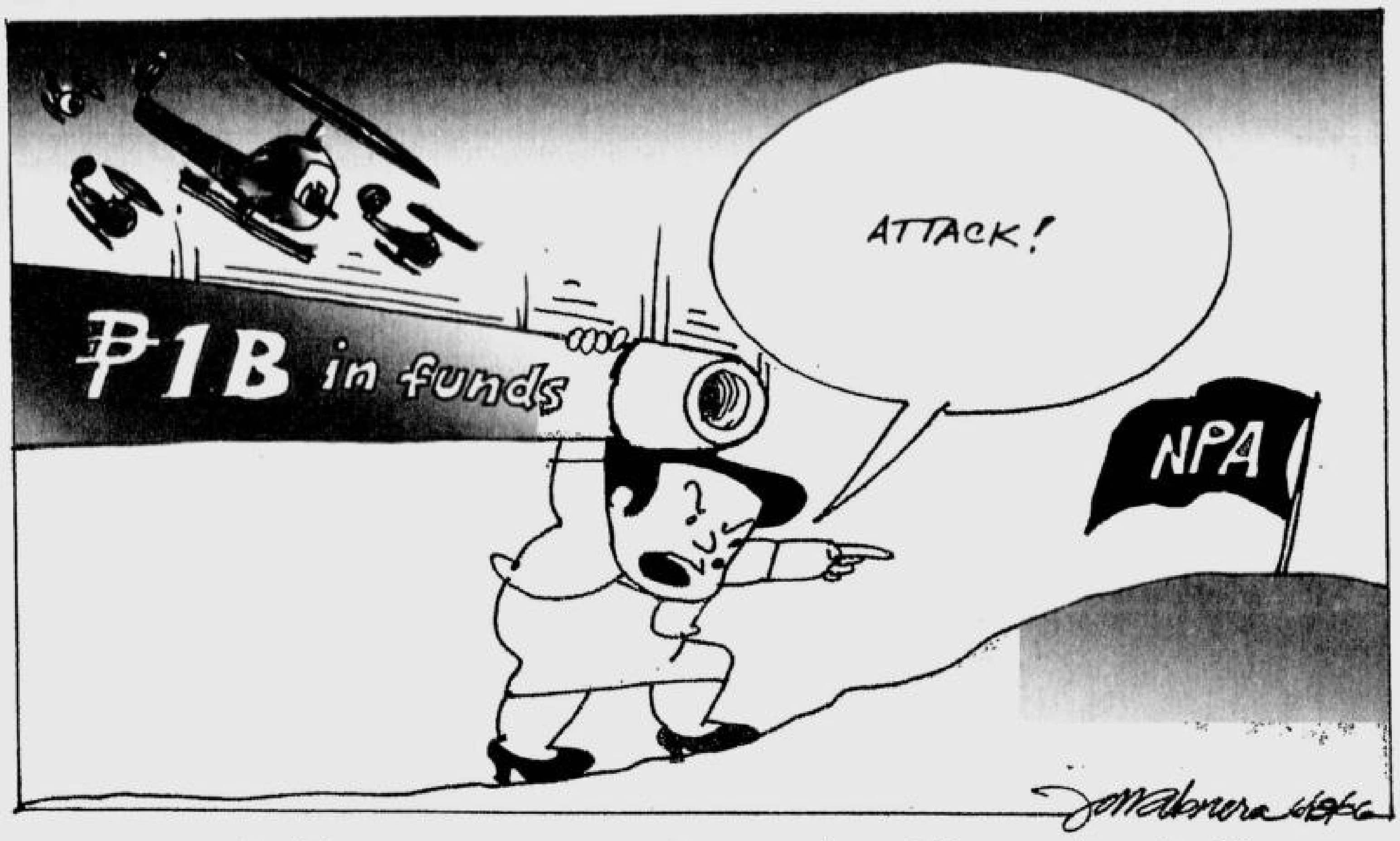

P1 billion: 'Happy Days Are Here Again!'

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

THE P1 BILLION TO BE RELEASED TO THE military, purportedly to be used for crushing the communist rebels, "in one to two years," is only the first installment. There will be more, but it will not be used principally against the communists. It will be used to stop another impeachment complaint, to push Charter change and to help administration candidates in the election campaign next year. If you distribute P1 billion to the mostly poor rebels in the countryside, you may be able to hold them at bay for a while; but the lion's share of the money will go to politicians and generals.

When Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's ever-loving father, Diosdado Macapagal, became president, the Liberals were singing "Happy Days Are Here Again!" Now politicians are singing the same song, most especially the administration congressmen (who expect to be bribed again to derail a new impeachment complaint), the local government officials who are expected to produce the pro-Cha-cha votes with Malacañang's "help," and the pro-GMA generals whose loyalty is for sale.

GMA and her mouthpiece Mike Defensor must have been dreaming when they said that the communist rebels could be crushed in "one to two years." No modern army has been able to crush a guerrilla war, not even that of the richest and most powerful nation on earth, the United States. With all its firepower and modern weaponry, the United States was licked by barefoot, pajama-clad guerrillas in Vietnam. Arab guerrillas are repeating the feat in Iraq. So how can a graft-ridden and inefficiently led military like ours defeat "in one to two years" a shadowy force that has been operating in our countryside for decades?

No, Little Mike was thinking of defeating not the communists but the majority of the people who are against changing the Constitution, who want GMA impeached and all the mercenary politicians in the pockets of Malacañang kicked out. The administration's "new" war against the communists is just a convenient decoy.

* * *

I had decided to let the case of the Masinloc power plant rest until the end of the month, when the third deadline for the YNN-Ranhill Berhad partnership to pay the $222 million down payment expires. But when the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (PSALM), reacting to two columns I wrote, sent a letter justifying its decision to repeatedly extend the deadline in violation of the rules; and when Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. revealed that PSALM officials had given themselves a whopping P10 million bonus for the sale, I felt I had to comment.

Pimentel's P10-million exposé explained why PSALM did not want to rescind the sale and confiscate the $11-million performance bond of YNN for failure to pay the down payment on time. In its circular of Dec. 28, 2004, PSALM said the bonus was to "recognize and equitably compensate the extraordinary performance of PSALM officials" for the sale of the Masinloc plant. If the sale is cancelled because it has turned sour, what "extraordinary performance" will the bonus be for?

The Commission on Audit subsequently ruled that the grant of the bonus "has no legal basis" and was not justified because the accomplishments cited by PSALM were considered "very far from being extraordinary." What is extraordinary is the cheek of PSALM officials to allocate for themselves P10 million when the National Power Corp. is deep in debt and, precisely, is selling its assets to pay for those debts.

The COA said the bonus was a violation of Sec. 3(b) of Administrative Order 103, issued by President Arroyo, which directs "all government-owned and controlled corporations, whether exempt from the salary standardization law or not, to suspend the grant of new or additional benefits to full-time officials and employees."

Pimentel has called for a congressional inquiry into the "patently illegal use of public funds for the benefit of functionaries whose handling of the Masinloc deal does not warrant the granting of the monetary award."

That is not the only thing that should be investigated. The Energy Regulatory Commission has been accused of opening a window to enable YNN and Meralco to enter into a sweetheart deal without any public bidding (as required by the rules), when it signed ERC Resolution 21, suspending the requirement of public bidding.

The timing of the suspension is suspect. Why so? Because right this very minute, sources tell me that there is a flurry of activities inside Meralco to rush a Power Purchase Agreement with YNN. Ranhill Berhad, YNN's Malaysian partner, has made a supply contract with Meralco, a condition for the effectivity of its $14-million performance bond. But given the oversupply of power in the Luzon Grid, Meralco does not need more power supplies. In the unlikely event that it is the government pressuring Meralco to sign the contract, why didn't it exert such pressure for the same purpose before the bidding so that PSALM could have attracted more bidders besides the two Lopez-connected firms?

We will see what happens next in the coming weeks. If a Meralco-YNN power supply contract pops out, then it won't be hard to connect the dots. No amount of press statements from the ERC will convince the public that this was not done purposely for YNN's benefit, and you'll know all our worst fears are true. The consumers will again be left holding the bag in another very rotten power deal.

It is very strange that Meralco, the other party to a supply contract, is very quiet on the issue. It has no obligation to sign such a contract. It has not lifted a finger to defend itself. Will it sign such a contract? What does it think of the issue? Its silence is deafening.

Put up or shut up

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

THE ADMINISTRATION CONGRESSMEN were quick to pounce on Rodolfo Biazon who told this newspaper last week that the conclusion of his committee was that the last elections were indeed tainted with massive fraud and Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo was its beneficiary.

Biazon's statement, Prospero Pichay complained, was just "speculative assessment," having no evidence to back it up. "These people are just after publicity. If Senator Biazon has nothing sensible to say, he should just shut up." Exequiel Javier and Marcelino Libanan accused Biazon of practicing "voodoo politics." And Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye opined: "The good senator is clearly reviving an issue that the public is tired of and wants to leave behind." And the other congressman who has gotten just as prosperous as Pichay under GMA, Prospero Nograles, demanded to know if Biazon has produced "any piece of legislation" from tenaciously inquiring into the integrity of the last elections.

It's enough to make you wonder if these people own mirrors, or at least hold one up to their faces. Though I wouldn't blame them if they did not—the reflection cannot be very flattering, inside and out. They really shouldn't be addressing these concerns to Biazon, they should be addressing them to themselves.

As credibility goes, who is Biazon and who are variously Pichay, Javier, Libanan, Bunye and Nograles? Biazon is the guy who during Cory's time—while Pichay was still busy grooming his Elvis Presley hair—got to be known as Mr. Constitutionalist for defending the Constitution against those who very seriously tried to threaten it, specifically the coup plotters who mounted very real coup attempts against the government. Biazon is the guy who, during Erap's time—while Nograles et al. were busy doing whatever obscure or petty things they were doing then—shone as a senator-cum-impeachment-court-member, never once giving in to outburst or loony-tunes antics (he left that to Miriam Santiago) while asking some pretty astute questions.

I particularly got impressed with him during that trial, and praised him on several occasions. Though not a lawyer, he was at par, if not better, than most of the lawyers in attendance there. He was completely level-headed and proved that no legal gobbledygook would ever put the wool over his eyes. For Pichay et al. to now accuse him of being publicity-hungry for revealing what everyone in this country—except Pichay et al.—already knows, well, it merely draws our attention to who really is so *kulang sa pansin* in this country. Indeed, more than that, it draws our attention to one profoundly Filipino quality GMA and her cohorts sorely lack, which is the quality of gratefulness. If Biazon had not opened his mouth during the impeachment trial and not been as "publicity hungry" as Pichay accuses him of now, Pichay would still be busy grooming his Elvis Presley hair instead of tormenting the public with his ululations. Erap would never have been ousted and GMA would never have come along to show she could be far worse.

If the issue of GMA's illegitimacy is something the public is "clearly" already tired of and wants to leave behind, why is Bunye so bothered by it? Why should his colleagues be so incensed by it they want Biazon to shut up? Surely an issue the public is "clearly" already tired of can be safely ignored and left to die a natural death? Surely trying to revive an issue the public is "clearly" already tired of is nothing more than flogging a dead horse?

In fact, as Bunye himself probably knows—although medical history is full of cases where people who keep repeating a lie eventually get to believe it—the only thing that is clear, as borne out by the surveys, is that most Filipinos do not believe GMA is the President. The only thing that is clear, as borne out by the evidence offered by the senses, is that if the public is tired of anyone, it is merely of the current squatter in Malacañang. The only thing that is clear is that if the public is tired of anything, it is that it has not yet found a way to evict her.

What is voodoo, whence "voodoo politics" derives from? In popular mythology at least, it is the first cousin of mumbo jumbo, or the attempt to give falsity truth, fakeness validity, and malevolence normality. Can anything be more voodooistic or "mumbo jumbo-ish" than preventing Brig. Gen. Francisco Gudani and Lt. Col. Alex Balutan from appearing in Biazon's committee and then saying Biazon has no proof? Can anything be more voodooistic or mumbo jumbo-ish than bashing the heads of the people who march in the streets and then saying that unlike Thailand, whose prime minister resigned, we do not have people loudly protesting against GMA in the streets? Can anything be more voodooistic or mumbo jumbo-ish than saying, "God put me here," when the God referred to speaks with a Visayan accent and keeps saying, "*Pipilitin po natin Ma'am*"?

Voodoo is also the other name for undiluted evil. Ask the kin of today's dead if it's Biazon who practices that kind of politics.

And finally, that idiocy again about congressional inquiries of the sort Biazon has zealously pursued not being "in aid of legislation." What, truth does not aid legislation? Justice does not aid legislation? Knowing who actually won the last elections and should be governing this country does not aid legislation? Pray, what does aid legislation? But never mind. Just look at the faces of Pichay and company and ask yourself if there is anything in them that can remotely evoke the memory of Solon, the wise Greek leader who bequeathed a system of laws to his nation, or can remotely conjure the hallowed title, "lawmaker."

One is tempted to tell them, "Put up or shut up." But just "Shut up" will do. We've put up with them too long already.

The education crisis

SOUNDING BOARD

Fr. Joaquin G. Bernas, S.J.

IN 1991, THE SUPREME COURT DEALT WITH A case where the petitioners had challenged the validity of the automatic appropriation of vast amounts of money for servicing the country's foreign debt. One core issue in that case was the lament over the amount government was making available for education. The petitioners had relied on the constitutional provision which says: "The state shall assign the **highest budgetary priority to education** and ensure that teaching will attract and retain its rightful share of the best available talents through adequate remuneration and other means of job satisfaction and fulfillment."

The late Blas Ople was the author of this provision. In defending the cause of public school teachers he said "that all the great and sincere piety professed by every President and every Congress of the Philippines since the end of World War II for the **economic welfare of the public schoolteachers** always ended up in failure and this failure had caused mass defection of the best and brightest teachers to other careers, including **menial jobs in overseas employment**, and concerted actions by them to project their grievances, **mainly over low pay and abject working conditions.**"

On the basis of the constitutional provision, the petitioners argued that the provision for automatic appropriation for servicing foreign debt must yield to the urgency of giving "highest budgetary priority to education."

The Supreme Court, however, made short shrift of that argument, saying that while "it is true that under Section 5(5), Article XVI of the Constitution, Congress is mandated to 'assign the highest budgetary priority to education' in order to 'insure that teaching will attract and retain its rightful share of the best available talents through adequate remuneration and other means of job satisfaction and fulfillment,' it does not thereby follow that the hands of Congress are so hamstrung as to deprive it the power to respond to the imperatives of the national interest and for the attainment of other state policies or objectives." The Court further said that, in fact, the welfare of public school teachers had been considerably improved and that in the annual appropriation for that year. the Department of Education received the "highest budgetary allocation among all department budgets."

The Court concluded that "Congress is certainly not without any power, guided only by its good judgment, to provide an appropriation that can reasonably service our enormous debt, the greater portion of which was inherited from the previous administration. It is not only a matter of honor and to protect the credit standing of the country. More especially, the very survival of our economy is at stake. Thus, if in the process Congress appropriated an amount for debt service bigger than the share allocated to education, the Court finds and so holds that said appropriation cannot be thereby assailed as unconstitutional."

I don't know how the budgetary allocation for education now stands in comparison with those of other departments or even with the allocation for foreign debt. Quiet obviously, however, it has not been enough (or its handling has not been enough) to meet the present classroom crisis in the public schools. And the crisis is not solved simply by an autocratic decision forcing two shifts just to accommodate 100 students in each classroom on a given teaching day, and then declaring to all the world that *causa finita est*.

Which brings me to a frequently repeated lament about our 1987 Constitution as being inordinately verbose. I agree with the criticism to some extent, but I am more concerned with the downgrading of some of the priorities that were considered important enough to merit constitutional mention. Quality and affordable education is one of these priorities.

The flagship provision on education says: "The State shall protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels and shall take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all." We can boast of the tourist quality of our beaches and the international competitiveness of the beauty of our women, but we should be not a little embarrassed about the quality of our educational system.

The Constitution, in fact, more than merely asserts the popular right to quality and affordable education. It also sets down the components of the system that is supposed to respond to the popular right. The system, as envisioned by the Constitution, includes state-supported free and compulsory elementary education, free secondary education, scholarship grants and student loan programs for public and private school students, informal education and adult education. For these, money is needed.

The budget season is not yet over. It may be a blessing that the education crisis has become a focus of attention before the final version of the budget has been approved. It may be pointless to quarrel with the automatic appropriation for foreign debt. But legislators interested in improving education, as all of them should be, should scour the current budget proposal, especially the pork barrel portion, for allocations that can be better assigned to improving our educational system.

The world's 'Development King'

COMMENTARY

Melinda Quintos de Jesus

BANGKOK—THE ROYAL JUBILEE WENT INTO climax last June 12, drawing the people of Thailand away from their worries, from the impact of rising oil prices on the economy, the pressures of inflation and the continuing political crisis that has put much of their government on hold.

They joined spiritedly to honor their King. The 60th anniversary of the accession to the throne of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadev reminded them that their unelected leader is a most extraordinary man, someone who has been a blessing to their nation, and whose goodness and wisdom have given them strength.

Two weeks of festivity marked the event. A music festival featured both ballet and opera from Europe. A precious collection of Rembrandt's etchings were put on display for free viewing. Visiting royalty and dignitaries from around the world were in attendance. But it was, first and foremost, a grateful people's celebration.

Over a million people queued up to view a huge exhibit of photographs that showed milestones in His Majesty's life and, despite the pressing crowds, many were moved to tears by this pictorial biography. Tickets at viewing places for the royal barge procession were completely sold out, including those for the two scheduled rehearsals. A massive candle ceremony during the weekend added to the festive lights. Everywhere in the country, people wore the King's color. Yellow T-shirts stamped with the royal emblem were sold out in stores, with latecomers scrambling for remaining supplies. And the monarch's flag, which many private homes post permanently at gates and posts, waved in the wind, on the streets, out in the parks, from humble stalls and giant malls.

Anyone who spends some time in this country comes to realize the depth of the people's respect and reverence for their King. The rites for veneration, embedded in custom and tradition, are steeped with religious fervor. But beyond the level of institution and ceremony, one senses the genuine love that the people have in their hearts for His Majesty. There is nothing like it in the world. One does not escape its force. One learns instead to cherish the King as well.

The global wave of democratic change in recent decades has made the elected leader the model for the future. But here is a man who inherited the throne as his birthright, and it is he who has held up to the world an example of selfless and dedicated leadership.

The United Nations commenced the official period of the jubilee with the conferment of the first Human Development Lifetime Achievement Award to the King, recognizing His Majesty's ceaseless efforts to improve the life and livelihood of the poorest of the poor of Thailand. UN Secretary General Kofi Annan presented the award at a royal audience in the summer palace in Hua Hin, the seaside town where the King, who is 79, stays most of the time.

In his younger years, the King traveled up to eight months of the year to visit communities in remote provinces, closely observing how people in these areas lived and what problems they faced. Predictably, he would take action, initiating numerous rural development projects that, in Annan's words, have "shaped the development dialogue in the world." His innovative experiments have helped small farmers to produce more, to use appropriate farming techniques and technologies and to cope with the deadly cycle of drought and flood.

An articulated philosophy girds these endeavors. His "sufficiency economy" calls for moderation and responsible consumption. He has encouraged his people to observe four principles in life: "moderation in conducting one's affairs, perseverance in the face of hardship and suffering, individuality in identifying problems and solutions, and cherishing the sense of being Thai."

One can imagine the appeal of his personality, with interests and hobbies that range from raising animals, to photography and music. I still remember the visit of the King and Queen Sirikit to the Philippines in the '60s, where he was hailed warmly by the press, responding to the good looks, the elegance and the style, his jamming on his saxophone with Raul Manglapus and the Executive Band.

In Thailand's political system, the King holds no political position. But his people look to his influence over the conduct of public affairs. It has not been easy to keep balance on the beam of constitutional monarchy. But there are lessons to learn from his reign—about what it takes to rule and to retain the love and loyalty of the people.

King Bhumibol rose to the throne when the monarchy in the country was at its lowest ebb. A military junta had expected the young monarch to become their creature. Deftly, he charted his moves to assert the mandate of the throne and, in time, restored what had been lost in royal stature. Today, as has been pointed out, the prestige of the throne derives from his personality, and not the other way around.

Obviously, destiny plays a part in exalted lives. But there is more than fate at work in great leaders. There is the stuff that really counts—character and nobility of spirit, the will to work, not for one's self but for one's people.

The Thais may be excused for what some may think excessive celebration. Long Live the King!

Melinda Quintos de Jesus is executive director of the Center for Media Freedom and Responsibility.

Adolf Rizal

THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III

AND, INCIDENTALLY, HIS HALF-BROTHER, RIZAL Zedong. Ten years after I wrote it, I'm presenting this lighthearted piece upon the request of some readers who've recommended it to others, but who can't find the original piece.

Here is the craziest thing I've heard (and I've heard it more than once, at parties): Adolf Hitler was really the illegitimate son of Jose Rizal. Here is the second craziest thing I've heard: Mao Zedong, too. Two variations, I suppose, of the idea that "Yes, the Filipino can!"

I found the two theories so funny that I never thought of asking my "sources" to explain the evidence for their claims. So I did a little research to find out how they could have cooked up such stories.

The claim that Hitler was Rizal's progeny must be based on the following facts:

- Hitler was born on April 20, 1889 (that means he was conceived sometime in August 1888), in the little village of Braunau, near the German-Austrian border.
- He was born an Austrian and remained one until the 1930s.
- The name of his mother was Klara Polzl.
- At one time she was a maid in Vienna.
- He always considered the Austrian town of Linz as his hometown.
- Both his oldest brother Gustav (born on May 17, 1885) and sister Ida (born in 1886) died before he was born.
- Bavaria was considered the "cradle" of Nazism.
- The Nazis made Japan one of the Axis powers. At one point they tried to prove that the Japanese were Aryans, members of the "master race."

Now combine the above information with the following:

- On Feb. 1, 1886, Rizal left Paris for Germany—Heidelberg, Wilhlmsfeld, Munich (in Bavaria), all somewhat near the German-Austrian border; on Aug. 9, 1886, he left for Leipzig, arriving there on Aug. 14. In October, he went to Dresden and then to Berlin.
- In Berlin he finished the "Noli Me Tangere.". One of the book's characters is named Maria Clara.
- On May 11, 1887, Rizal began his "grand tour" of Europe—Dresden, Teschen (now Decin in the former Czechoslovakia), Prague and then Brunn (where he lost a diamond stickpin), and Vienna (where he got back his stickpin, which was found by a maid in the hotel he stayed in Brunn).
- On May 24, 1887, he left Vienna by riverboat to see sights on the Danube River. His voyage ended at Linz.
- From Linz he went to Munich (where Hitler attempted a putsch in 1923) and Nuremberg (site of the Nazi Party rallies and the War Crimes trials), and other German cities.
- Rizal was in the German Empire, sometimes past the German-Austrian border, from February 1886 until he went to Switzerland in early June 1887.
- Rizal was again in Europe from May 24, 1888, until Oct. 18, 1891. He was in London, Paris, Brussels, Madrid, Biarritz, Ghent. He was in Europe during the time Hitler was conceived and was born.
- Rizal in 1888 had an affair with a Japanese woman, Seiko Usui, when he visited Japan. She had an only daughter, Yuriko, by a foreign husband some years after her encounter with Rizal. Yuriko later married the son of a Japanese politician.

Put all this information together, and you may be able to conclude the following: Hitler was conceived either in 1887 when Rizal passed through Linz or other towns (such as Brunn—how do you think he lost the diamond stickpin? And who was the "maid" who found it later and gave it to Blumentritt who forwarded it to Vienna?) near the Austrian border: in which case, Hitler's older siblings were fictitious, to cover up his mother's being pregnant with him. In other words, Hitler was actually born before 1889.

Or he was conceived in August 1888, when Rizal was supposedly in London. Or, perhaps, in September 1888, when Rizal went to Paris for a week. (To have a rendezvous with Klara?) Maybe, he went to Paris in 1889 so he could communicate more easily with the now-expecting Klara, whose affair with Rizal might have centered around Linz, which is why the Hitler family moved there later (so Mama Hitler could live where she had "an affair to remember), which would explain Hitler's fondness for the town.

Finally, Seiko Usui's only daughter was not really fathered by her husband, Alfred Charlton. He was simply a front. Yuriko, you see, was Rizal's daughter! And Hitler knew she was his half-sister. She used her influence on her brother Adolf to convince him to enter into an alliance with Japan (making it one of the Axis powers): which is why Japan invaded the Philippines! Yuriko made it clear to Hirohito that Hitler would appreciate it if his ally were to take over his father's homeland. And, of course, the reason why Hitler wanted to become dictator of Germany was because his natural father had spent some of the most interesting years of his life there!

That, I think, is the rationale behind such a fantastic claim based on information that can be gathered from any high school textbook on Rizal and any good biography of Hitler. Naturally, this can only be done through selective use of evidence, but it does make for an amusing piece of historical fiction.

Now, on the idea that Mao was also Rizal's son. Unfortunately this claim cannot be supported by even the most spurious evidence. Mao was born in 1893, in Hunan Province, which is kind of near Hong Kong. But at that time (1893), Rizal was in exile in Dapitan. He couldn't possibly have jumped into a boat and rowed to Hong Kong without being caught. He did pass through Hong Kong in 1888 and 1891, but he never seems to have visited other parts of China (unless you count Xiamen and Macao). So there are no details that can be manipulated.

These exercises in foolishness prove how creative Filipinos can be. What other people would be able to make the bogus claim that one of their heroes fathered the man who almost turned Europe into a "howling wilderness" (as one US officer wanted to do with Samar)? That would have been poetic justice, I suppose, the brown man strikes back and all that sort of thing.

Old people in China

HIGH BLOOD

Denis Murphy

WE'D also like to know the concerns of the sixtysomething and above, what makes their blood pressure rise or makes them sit back, content that all's well with their world and with themselves. **—Ed.**

MY WIFE AND I WERE IN GUIYANG, CHINA FOR A WEEK, much too short a time to look into any serious problem in that vast country, but time enough to enjoy the people, especially the old ones, and bridge some of the stereotypes that have built up about China over the last 50 years.

Guiyang, a lovely city that sits on the mountains 1,000 kilometers north of Hong Kong, is termed a "medium size" city despite its 5 million people. China is so big that Chinese in Hong Kong never heard of Guiyang and the 5 million people living there. Imagine being part of a country that's so big you are not aware of a city with 5 million people. We had time to see many lovely things, especially ways by which old people deal with aging.

Guiyang has a 450-hectare park. There we saw old people relaxing. Old men in their 70s and 80s were flying small red kites. The city is famous for its kites, we were told. The old men can't run to get their kites up, but they coax them higher by talking to them.

We saw other kite flyers in the city center where a 60-foot statue of Mao stands across the street from a Walmart store: Mao points to the future; but there, lo and behold, is a Walmart store, the epitome of capitalist marketing. Poor Mao: capitalism is spreading all over his China. In Hong Kong some young people no longer know his name.

Old men play with Chinese tops which are made of metal, stand about nine inches tall and look like small rugby or American footballs. They start the top spinning and then keep it going by whipping it with a stick to which a leather strap is attached. One man invited me to try it. I found it was a good exercise: you move around with the top and the whipping takes a good bit of energy. The men keep it up for hours. It's also probably a good way to work off tension.

We passed one bench in the park where old people were singing, nine or 10 of them, men and women, led by a woman who must have been a Party official at one time because she wouldn't let any of the group stop. First they sang an old love song. After the love song, they sang a faster melody, something like the tune of "Yankee Doodle" or "London Bridge Is Falling Down."

Much is not clear in China. In the park, we came across this sign in English: "Conceal to get the danger in the clear fire to against the better than relief duty heavy in the taimountain." Readers of "The Da Vinci Code" may be able to figure out the meaning.

Other men have their birds, their beloved pets, in small wooden cages. We watched one old man dip his cage with the bird inside into the lake, then he shook it and hung it up on a tree to dry. He looked at it constantly and finally when the bird began to sing, he relaxed.

A most meaningful activity of old people is common in Chinese cities, we were told. Old people write their thoughts and reflections in water on the pavement. They use canes topped with rags and write beautiful characters one below the other.

Some messages are their comments on life; some criticize the government; some tell of their own lives and many are poetic. Passersby read and talk about what is written. The Bible uses the phrase "written on water" to describe the brevity of life.

In one portion of the park, we saw old people practicing *tai chi*. We met a girl from Shaolin, home of the monastery which is famous for teaching the kung fu discipline, which I heard, is *tai chi* at faster speed. She said her parents sent her brother to the monks for training because he was "a naughty boy." There was no speed in the old people: one position flowed gracefully into another. They looked so serious, I wondered what they were thinking. Were they meditating? Were they concentrating on perfecting each gesture, perfecting their art?

Old people in China have their sure and certain place. The Philippines is also very good with old people, but wouldn't it be nice to hear more old people singing or flying kites, or spinning tops, or writing on sidewalks (or poster making)?

What exercise do our old people have? Very little it seems. Even walking is difficult and sometimes dangerous, unless you live in a quiet subdivision away from traffic. Some of the exercises our old people get into are not appreciated by them—such as, competing with younger people to get on a jeepney or a bus that keeps on moving even as people are racing each other to get on it.

Sometimes with God's help they manage to get on board. I think God doesn't have a clear overall plan for the Philippines because He is too busy snatching children and old people from danger. He simply has no time for the master plan.

Can't we find more space for our old people where they can come together and have their own activities? A happy old person is a treasure in a house; a cranky one, such as one who never relaxes with his or her friends, is a burden.

We met Zhang Xiuying who told us she was 60, though she looked much older. She is a scavenger who has a set route through the university where we stayed. She follows her route each day, rain or shine, bent over with a large basket on her back anchored by a strap around her shoulders. At first our translator thought she was from Tibet because the Chinese for Tibet is similar to that of a town in the same province as Guiyang, from where she comes. She told us she was satisfied with life. As we talked to her, a number of students listened in and were soon asking her questions and explaining her answers to us, then talking about her among themselves. She seemed to enjoy the fuss and looked around her with a shy, sweet smile. It seemed this was the first time the students had noticed her, much less talked to her.

Lastly, we visited a lake in the park that is famous for its beauty. It was overcast and after a while it began to rain. We sat in an old tea house with other old folks and watched a crane sweep low over the water looking for fish. (These are the same birds that migrate to Central Luzon in winter.)

There has been unbelievable suffering in China in the last 70 years. But now, though huge problems remain, in Guiyang at least, as far as we could see, there was peace.

Denis Murphy works with the Urban Poor Associates.

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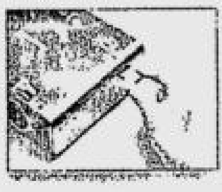

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Executions outside the death chamber

THE ABOLITION OF THE DEATH penalty law, which supposedly signifies the government's respect for the sanctity of human life, ironically comes at a time when activists and journalists are being killed with impunity all over the country, and the main suspect is the government.

The fact that the government has practically failed to stop or put closure to any of those killings only justifies the suspicion that they may be state-sanctioned. The abolition of the death penalty does not in any way reduce the Arroyo administration's accountability for the series of killings.

And the President's public avowals about government respecting the right to life will have no meaning; in fact they will only sound hypocritical.

The greater irony is that the President has shown herself to have a soft heart for notorious criminals in the death row but none of it for innocent civilians who spent much of their lives to the cause of justice. The Arroyo administration has the political will to spare the lives of convicted death row inmates but is so seemingly spineless in solving human rights violations and stopping the killing of activists and journalists.

The Filipino people cannot truly rejoice over the abolition of the death penalty law, not for as long as the entire national community is a chamber of death under the Arroyo administration. The continuing slaughter of activists and journalists is even more lethal because it is killing not just people but also Philippine democracy.

The call for every Filipino today is to be vigilant not just against violence but also against state terrorism; not just to protect human life but also to preserve democracy and freedom.

The best way we can end the uncertainty and anarchy that have engulfed the country today is not by scrapping the death penalty law, but by ousting a repressive regime with a questionable mandate to rule, a regime that has made this country a chamber of death.

We have to understand that there's more terror being sowed outside the death chamber in the national prison.

—HIMPAD MANGUMALAS,
Kalipunan ng mga Katutubong
Mamamayan ng Pilipinas,
48-A Mapagbigay St.,
Barangay Pinyahan,
Diliman, Quezon City

The slaughter must come to an end

THE NATIONAL UNION OF JOURNALISTS of the Philippines (NUJP) expresses its strong solidarity with fellow journalists in Iraq, 129 of whom have been killed since the US invasion in 2003. We issue this statement in spirit of the Global Day of Solidarity with Journalists in Iraq, which was observed on June 15.

As the International Federation of Journalists said in its statement, "Every day, Iraqi journalists take risks and make sacrifices that are essential for free expression. It is time that we recognize their crucial role in the fight for freedom and democracy in Iraq."

Again, we express our mourning for the deaths of our colleagues in Iraq. But we demand an end to the slaughter.

—NATIONAL UNION OF JOURNALISTS
OF THE PHILIPPINES,
105-A Scout Castor St. (near Morato
Avenue), Quezon City,
nujphil@gmail.com

LETTERS
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OFW remittances nothing to boast of

IF, AS THE GOVERNMENT HAS reported, it is true that 8 million overseas Filipino workers remit $13 billion annually—then there is no reason for the government or for the Filipino nation to celebrate.

This means that each OFW remits an average of $1,625 per year or only $135 (or P6,885) per month. This amount is too small compared to the economic and social costs that the nation suffers with the loss of 8 million skilled workers, mothers, fathers, brothers and sisters to overseas jobs.

The data also means that we are not getting the highly skilled and highly paid overseas jobs. For sure, a $135 per month remittance does not come from a highly paid OFW. Does it mean, therefore, that the majority of our skilled OFWs are in low-paying overseas jobs? No wonder that, based on the latest surveys, in spite of the $13 billion that the economy gets from OFWs, there are still millions of Filipinos (probably many OFW families) starving.

I would rather not think that, among the different sectors of society, our OFWs are the hardest hit by deprivation (taking into account all its various forms). But their contribution to keeping our economy afloat has been substantial. OFWs are real heroes, but it is not enough that the government should just thank them. They deserve to get better jobs with better pay. In the end, it is the whole nation that benefits from their sacrifices.

—FRANCO GACAL,
fgacal@hotmail.com

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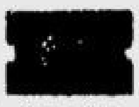
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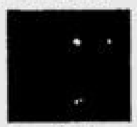
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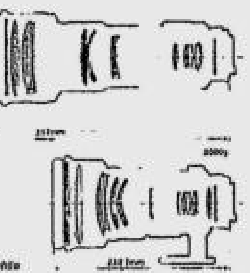
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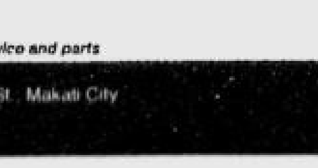
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Myth of 'parliamentary savings'

THIS IS IN REACTION TO BELINDA Olivares-Cunanan's column on the Senate's stand on "legislated Charter change." (PDI, 5/20/06)

She said that a unicameral parliament would be much more efficient and would save us as much as P5 billion a year; that a "legislated Charter change," proposed by the senators, looked like a cop-out, and that the senators would do well not to ignore Rep. Edcel Lagman's timely reminder that the act of proposing constitutional amendments is "not an ordinary process" because it needs a "special mechanism" like a constituent assembly.

Cunanan further pointed out that the senators, perpetually looking for arguments to shelve Charter change, now also argue that the 1987 Constitution did not specifically mention a constituent assembly as a mechanism for change, unlike the 1935 Constitution.

"True, but this does not mean that Congress cannot resort to it: All they have to do is to pass that resolution in both chambers and the constituent assembly can be immediately convened as the cheaper and more efficient way to effect Charter change."

1. If Cunanan believes that there is no provision in the 1987 Constitution that legalizes the constituent assembly, how does she propose to legalize a joint resolution for a constituent assembly, assuming that the Senate will pass one? Is she suggesting that if both chambers of Congress pass resolutions calling for a constituent assembly, the resolutions will be legal and legalize the existence of such an assembly, even though it is not in the 1987 Constitution?

2. Cunanan cited Representative Lagman's legal opinion on the "legislated Charter change." Is she saying that the 1935 Constitution provisions on amendments supersede those in the 1987 Constitution? If Cunanan agrees with Lagman's opinion that changing the Constitution is "not an ordinary process," does she also adhere to Speaker Jose de Venecia's timetable of rushing the establishment of a new form of government by July this year? If so, it does seem to us, ordinary people, that changing the form of government is so easy that a Speaker of the House can wish for it and then have it on a silver platter at the snap of his fingers. So easy, it's like changing political parties in the Philippines.

3. On the P5 billion that the country can save by abolishing the Senate, how can a unicameral parliament that is bigger than the Senate and House combined, as Sigaw ng Bayan proposes, spend less? In the transition government alone, wouldn't the vice president and Cabinet members and 35 presidential appointees be added to the ranks of sitting congressmen and senators who will compose the parliament?

Apparently, the Cha-cha proponents are getting to master the Commission on Elections' extraordinary mathematical ability to do the magic of *dagdag-bawas*!

—RICHARD LOZADA,
rlozada@netzero.net

GMA deserves heckling from students

EVEN AS THE NEW SCHOOL year has started, the great majority of the 2006 graduates have yet to know if they will find work here in their own country. Who can blame our professionals for leaving their families to work abroad? They don't have enough opportunities to apply the knowledge and skills they learned in school.

It is simply very hard for graduates to look for jobs in their chosen field. Some do have their jobs, but their meager wages are not enough to support the needs of their families.

And these problems are not far different from those facing our workers. Many of our workers are clamoring for wage increase just the way the students are demanding quality education. One thing the two sectors have in common is that both are exploited and oppressed.

But students and graduates should fight not only for quality education but also for the immediate ouster of the bogus President. GMA deserves all the heckling from students. She offers them nothing but a miserable future.

—ARCHIE RELIOSA,
Kabataan Para sa
Tribung Pilipino (Katribu),
katribu_org@yahoo.com

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4 'NBI agents' abduct trader

CALAMBA CITY—FOUR UNIDENTIFIED ARMED MEN who introduced themselves as agents of the National Bureau of Investigation abducted a businessman outside a cockpit arena near the boundary of Batangas City and San Pascual, Batangas early Sunday morning, police said.

Batangas City police chief Supt. Nilo Anzo said Precioso Macatangay, a resident of Barangay Gulod Itaas here, who owns the Macro Hotel in the city, had just come from the San Pascual Cockpit Coliseum in Barangay Sta. Rita at around 2 a.m. when the armed suspects came up to him and forced him into his parked Toyota Hi-Lux vehicle.

Quoting witnesses, Anzo said one of the suspects commandeered the vehicle.

He said the suspects left the victim's companion, a 15-year-old girl, as they sped toward an unknown direction.

More than an hour after the incident happened, the victim's vehicle was found abandoned in San Jose Del Monte City, Bulacan.

He said the suspects could have just used the name of the NBI to confuse police investigators.

"Witnesses who saw the incident said the suspects told the victim that they were NBI agents. When we contacted the NBI, they said they had no operation in Batangas," Anzo told the INQUIRER in a mobile phone interview.

Macatangay's wife told the police that the family had not yet been contacted by the abductors.

Anzo said a check on the transaction record of the victim's credit card showed that he withdrew money from an automated teller machine at the Shell gas station along the northbound lane of the South Luzon Expressway at about 4:45 a.m. and from another ATM along the Congressional Road in Quezon City three hours later. *Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

WHAT'S INSIDE

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Scion of prominent Jolo family freed after payment of ransom

ZAMBOANGA CITY—AN UNIDENTIFIED armed group released the scion of a prominent family in Jolo, Sulu after receiving more than P1 million in ransom money, the military said on Friday.

Lt. Col. Pablo Lorenzo, commander of the Army's 35th Infantry Battalion based in Sulu, said that Beltran Vergara, 42, was freed early morning Thursday in Indanan town after more than two months in captivity.

"What we learned was that the family paid P1.2 million but we are doubtful. It could actually be more than that," Lorenzo told the INQUIRER.

Vergara, whose family runs a pharmacy in Jolo, was snatched along with his mother Caridad, 73, on April 12.

Armed men, earlier thought to be Abu Sayyaf bandits, snatched them from inside their home in Barangay San Raymundo in Jolo.

Later, police authorities said there was no evidence the suspects were Abu Sayyaf gunmen.

On April 26, Caridad was freed. She was seen by neighbors walking near her home at around 9 p.m.

Jolo Mayor Alkramer Izquierdo said Caridad might have been freed because she was ill.

In the case of Beltran, Izquierdo said he was not sure if ransom was paid as relatives would not cooperate with authorities.

He said Beltran would only talk about his experience in the hands of the kidnappers.

"The man was really maltreated. He has a wound on his right eye and he told me that the suspects beat him everyday," Izquierdo said.

He said the Vergara family was planning to bring Beltran to Manila for treatment. *Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Hilario Davide Sr., one of the most successful fathers, dies at 101

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—"THY WILL BE DONE."

On the eve of Father's Day, one of the most successful and oldest fathers in the country has died.

Hilario Davide Sr., the father of retired Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr., died of old age at 101 at past 7 p.m. on Saturday in his residence on Waling-waling Street, Capitol Site, Cebu City.

Hilario Sr.'s wife, Josefa Gelbolingo-Davide died at the age of 94 in 1997.

Hilario Sr. had seven children, 18 grandchildren and over 20 great grandchildren.

Davide Jr. was in Manila at the time of his father's death but some of the elder Davide's children and many of his grandchildren were around, according to Cebu City Councilor Hilario Davide III, Davide Jr.'s son.

DAVIDE SR.

Davide III said he called his father to inform him of his grandfather's death and the former chief justice took the news calmly, saying "it was the will of God."

The retired chief justice took the early morning flight yesterday to be home to attend to his father's funeral.

Davide Sr.'s remains were brought to the Cosmopolitan Memorial Funeral Homes along Nivel Hills, Barangay Lahug this city for a five-day wake. Interment will be on Thursday afternoon at the Cebu Memorial Park along Barangay Banilad here.

Councilor Davide said his grandfather died on the eve of Father's Day, but he said it could be seen as a blessing too since Davide Sr., he added, epitomized an ideal father.

"He was a very admirable person," the grandson said.

Hilario Sr., a retired educator, rose from the ranks. He began his career teaching the first grade in the mountain barangay of Apo in his hometown of Argao in southern Cebu. He later became a supervisor, wherein he lobbied for the construction of public elementary schools in different barangays of Argao. He retired in 1969 as school superintendent in Lapulapu City.

Hilario Sr., a native of Colawin, Argao, was born on Jan. 14, 1905. He met his wife Josefa when they both served as teachers at Talaga Elementary School in Argao. Josefa was also a native of Talaga.

All his children became professionals. Oscar is a retired surgeon at the Don Vicente Sotto Memorial Medical Center; Ma. Paz is a retired schoolteacher; Romulo is a scientist at the University of the Philippines-Los Baños; Hilario Jr., a lawyer, is a retired chief justice of the Supreme Court; and Ma. Lina, who has a doctorate degree in drama and speech, in a director for a training department in a university in Illinois.

Jose, who died in 2004, was a lawyer-engineer; and Jorge, who died in 2002, was a doctor in soil.

Romulo, 72, described his father as a great educator and disciplinarian who dreamed that children living in rural areas should be given the chance to get a good education.

"I think he was given a long life because of his many achievements. His life was full of grace, he had done so many good things to other people," Romulo said in Cebuano.

That's why, Romulo said, all of Hilario Sr.'s children dedicated themselves to work for the good of other people too.

Romulo said Hilario Sr. was a very religious person who believed that everything that happened in their life was God's will.

Romulo said it was their father who taught them how to pray the Lord's Prayer. Davide Sr. also made sure that his children started their day with a Bible study and for the family to pray together at 6 p.m., everyday.

He said Hilario Sr. was the one who taught them the love of God and how to value the spiritual aspect of life, which became a strong foundation of their entire family.

Romulo said he could not forget his father's favorite Biblical quote, "Ask and you shall be given, take and you shall find."

Romulo said their father always instilled in them to have faith and trust in God. "Thy will be done."

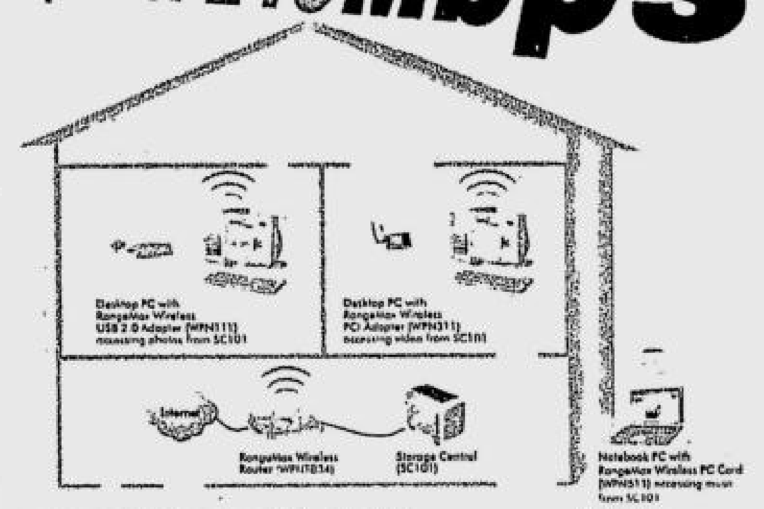
It did not therefore come as a surprise that when Romulo was first asked if he had accepted his father's death, his reply was "Thy will be done."

Dennis Sebastian Davide, 15, one of Davide Sr.'s great grandsons, said Hilario Sr. was very kind and generous. "We surely miss him."

Councilor Davide said his grandfather was in and out of the hospital for two years. In fact, Davide Sr. had been out of the hospital for just a week before he died.

Before he died, he could only identify a few members of his family and could barely speak, according to Nida Davide, the wife of one of his grandchildren.

Nida said the family planned to bury him on Thursday at the Cebu Memorial Park after the 2 p.m. Mass at the Redemptorist Church here.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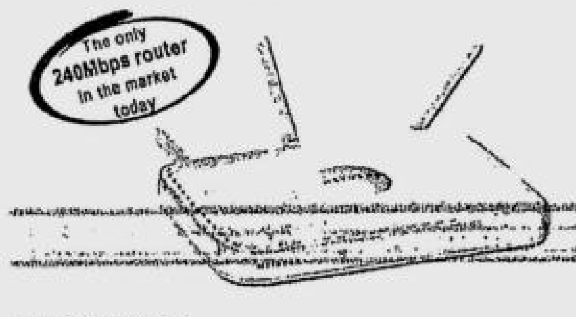

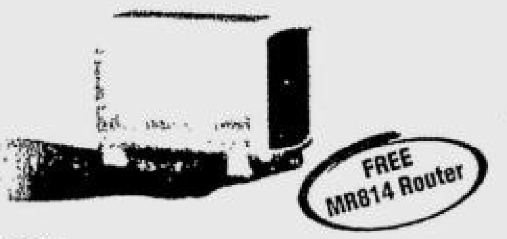

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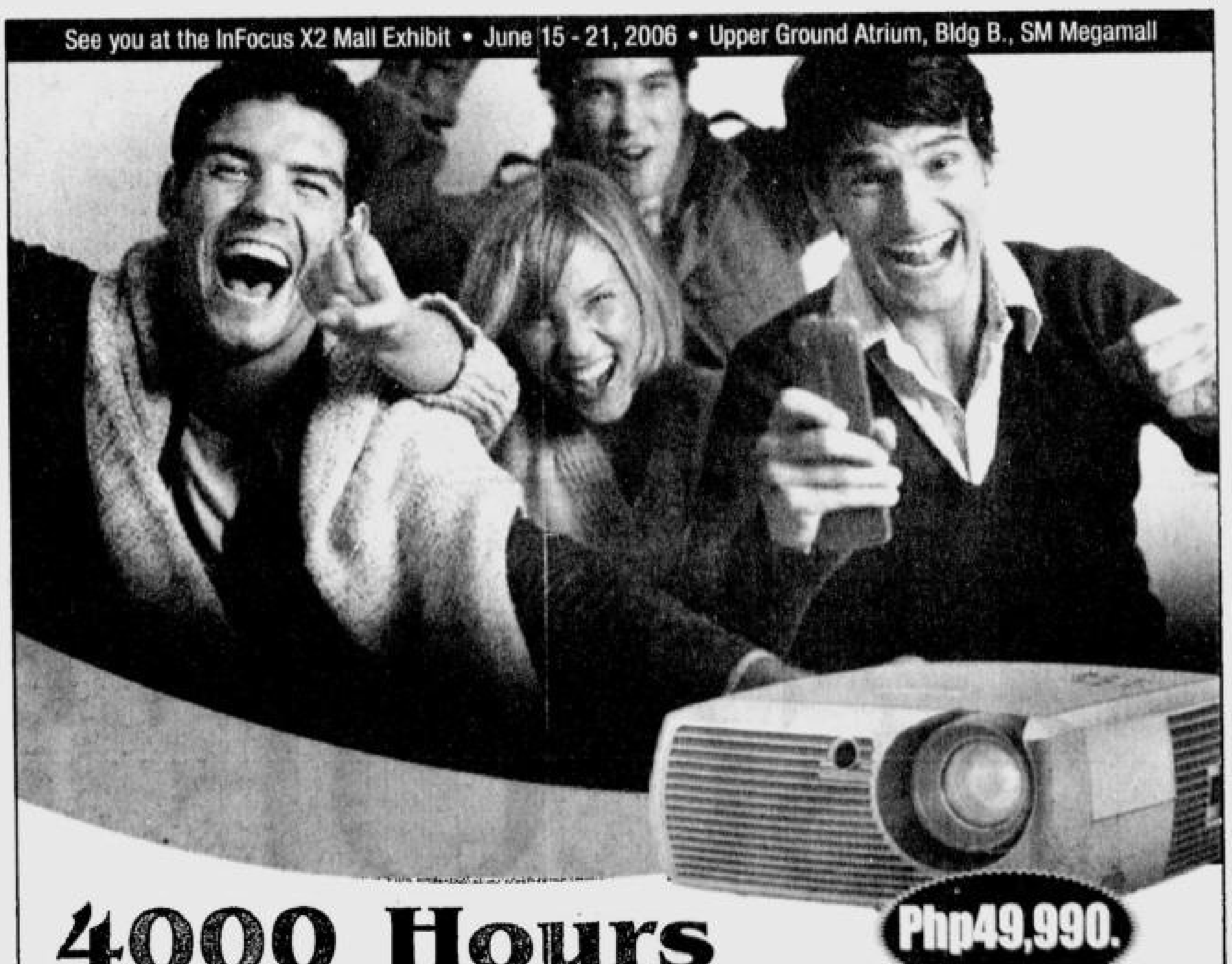

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MEMBERS of the Bayanihan National Dance Company perform their version of the "Pangalay." BOBBY TIMONERA / CONTRIBUTOR

Bayanihan dance troupe a hit in Iligan but scored for 'commercialization'

By Christine Godinez-Ortega
PDI Mindanao Bureau

ILIGAN CITY—THE BAYANIHAN NATIONAL Dance Company came and conquered the audiences during its free performances on Saturday at the Mindanao State University-Iligan Institute of Technology (MSU-IIT) Gymnasium in celebration of the city's 56th Charter Day, Adlaw sa Iligan.

But it left local artists fuming mad because of alleged "bastardization," "commercialization," "self-indulgent artistry," and "theatrics as an end" of the company's Mindanao dance suites.

Leading the protest is the MSU-IIT resident dance-theater company Integrated Performing Arts Guild's (Ipag) artistic director, Dr. Steven Patrick Fernandez.

In a position paper circulated in the adindanao website, Fernandez claimed that Bayanihan lacks "credibility" and fails in its "artistic responsibility" contrary to its mandate as a "national museum" of dance and by law, subsidized by government.

Suzie Benitez, a former Bayanihan dancer and now its executive director, told the INQUIRER by phone that the Bayanihan had an artistic team that has been faithful to the dances as choreographed by the late national artist for dance, Urtula. The team is headed by Isabel "Tita Bills" Santos.

In its 50 years of artistic journey, the Bayanihan has been "sincere in its efforts to present to the Filipino people our culture through dance, color and direction," Benitez said.

"It is [likewise] important to sustain the Bayanihan to different audiences and new generations of Filipinos."

Blurred representation

Fernandez pointed out the blurring of representation of dances from its movements and colors and music he described as chants a la-Grace Nono and the bastardization of *kulintang* music that has no trace of the "melodic Maranao *kulintang* music, the "celled" Maguindanao music and the improvisatory Tausug music."

Joining in the protest and calling for a stop to "the disrespect of the indigenous peoples" is Cecile Arriola, director of the Davao-based Mebuyan Peace Project and treasurer of Mindulani.

Arriola lamented Bayanihan's "misrepresentation" of the peoples' artistic expressions in contrast to "Mindanao theatre groups" that take care to retell indigenous stories not only to promote respect for these peoples but to help them in "their struggle against constant threats of extinction."

Fernandez said a private performing group can recreate collages of dances but it is unforgivable for a national dance group's lack of circumspection in its stylization and not knowing where the stylization is based on.

"When staged, a work is no longer authentic because of trans-creation. But we have cultural sources as our bases and we first respect these sources' ethics before anything else. The dancing of a national company is a trans-creation of a source to stage. Even with creative transformation, a spirit and ethics live intact from [its] source to its reshaping in another medium;" Fernandez added.

In his position paper, Fernandez cited female dancers' in *janggay*, *patadjung* and *sablay* trying to imitate the *pangalay* (Sulu dance) but "their gestures never looked like the *pangalay* because of the large broad circular movements of the hands and the sharp executions that were really unlike the nuanced tenderness of the *pangalay* which dance researcher Ligaya Fernando Amilbangsa describes as "stillness in motion."

Lack of research

The lack of research, Fernandez pointed out, was shown in this same dance where the distinction between Tausug and Jama Mapun was blurred. In the Maranao-Maguindanao suite, the female dancers in *landap malong* were preceded by a "prince" in blue costume and a "princess" in dazzling silver gown with a *sarimanok* on her head. He said the Maranao royal colors are "yellow or gold." The blue color would be for a slave. The *singkil*, being a folk dance is not a royal dance and Mindanao princesses do not dance but are instead entertained by court dancers.

It was also a shock for a few in the audience when male dancers carried female dancers on the shoulders in the T'boli Madal Tahaw dance knowing the place of women in T'boli culture.

The Bayanihan's *langka silat* portion (Kuntao of Sulu) also, according to Fernandez, should prove challenging as a cheer dance piece or talent portion in a beauty contest.

Former Iligan City Mayor Camilo Cabili who watched the recent Bayanihan performances in Iligan regretted the "acrobatics" and "too much thumping of the feet onstage."

"With all that acrobatics, what difference will our dances have with the other dances in the world?" he asked.

He also rued the lack of story in the "singkil" dance promptly quoting the late National Artist for Dance and former Bayanihan Artistic Director, Lucrecia Reyes Urtula who had said, "the secret has to do with finding the story behind each dance and going ahead in telling it dramatically."

Apart from this, Cabili also commented on the briefness of the dance "Pandanggo sa Ilaw," which, he said, had elicited eight curtain calls during the Bayanihan performances in New York in 1959.

Cabili met his wife, the former Leni Alano, a Bayanihan dancer and soloist when the Bayanihan performed in Iligan in 1965. His four daughters, Joanna, Cristina Marie, Felicia and Lenora also danced for the company.

In these recent performances of Bayanihan in Iligan, Cabili missed the nostalgic rondalla music but, on the whole, he views every Bayanihan performance as significant because of "the effect of the folk dances on the people."

In the adindanao webpage, Carlo Ebeo, NCCA Commissioner for Traditional Arts, said the Bayanihan and similar groups guilty of "bastardization" in the name of "artistic license" should apologize to the peoples they represent on stage. He called for the wide exposure to "generally accepted and appropriately value-laden translations and wide use of Indigenous Peoples and Islamized cultural expressions and practices."

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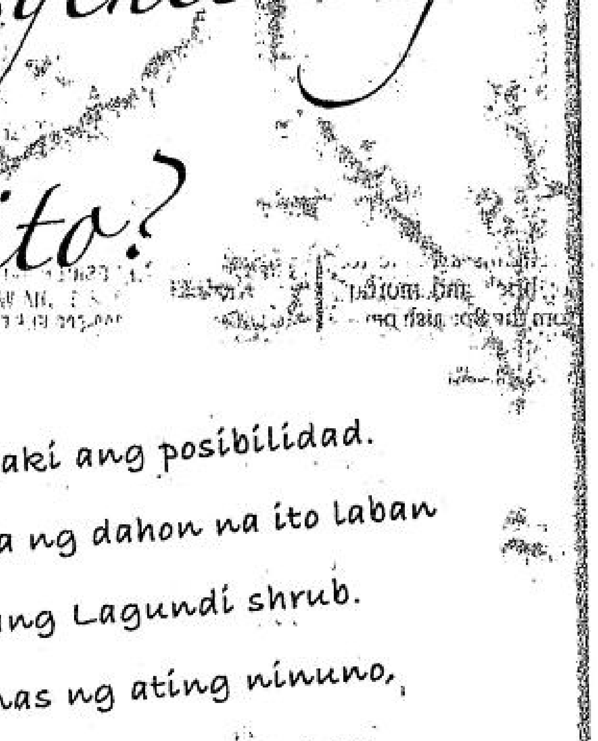

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ALTERMED CORPORATION

No permit for Panglao building, engineer says

By Chito A. Fuentes
PDI Visayas Bureau

TAGBILARAN CITY—THE MUNICIPAL engineer of the resort town of Panglao, Bohol has revealed that the permit for a four-story building at the beach resort of Panglao Mayor Doloreich Dumaluan has no supporting document.

Municipal engineer Emilio Narit made this revelation in a June 15 letter to the Panglao municipal council, to respond to queries raised during the previous day's regular session over the controversial construction at the Dumaluan Resort.

The council's move was in reaction to an earlier report in a weekly newspaper here, about the expansion project done at the mayor's resort without the necessary documents to support it.

Narit informed the town council that the records in his office showed that the permit for the Dumaluan Resort's expansion was approved by the previous municipal engineer, Fernando Penales, with only a photocopy of the approved building permit form.

A photocopy of the official receipt issued to Dumaluan dated June 15, 2005 showed that the mayor paid the amount of P16,667.86.

Building permit no. 88870-061405 issued on the same day specified only the type of occupancy, which was "executive guest rooms."

The total estimated cost for the building, which has a floor area of 1,012.77 meters, was more than P5 million, which, according to local contractor, was a very low estimate for a four-story building.

The issuance of the permit has come under fire from the mayor's critics including Vice Mayor Pedro Fuertes since the supporting documents for issuance of a building permit included at least nine requirements.

They are the Duly Accomplished Forms for building permit form, electrical permit form and plumbing permit form; standard plans for vicinity/location, site development and building; proof of ownership of site such as tax declaration/TCT/OCT or Consent/Deed of Sale/Lease Contract; barangay certification/clearance, community tax, bill of materials/estimates.

The requirements also include an affidavit of undertaking if within the Panglao Island Tourism Estate (PITE) Area; Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) from the Environmental Management Bureau-Department of Environment and Natural Resources for projects within the PITE Area or in commercial/tourism zone; and fees including processing and filing fee.

Aside from the absence of an ECC, the PITE affidavit and the standard plans, Dumaluan's expansion project has come under fire for encroaching into the 20-meter salvage zone.

Concern over Panglao's fate surfaced after the helter-skelter development in Boracay threatened its very existence.

The concerns mounted due to Dumaluan's refusal to comply with government laws particularly those on the ECC and the 20-meter salvage zone considering that he is supposed to be the model adherent to rules.

This was compounded by the DENR's failure to act against Dumaluan despite the violations he has committed.

Laoag City marks 41st charter day today

LAOAG CITY—FOR THE FIRST TIME after obtaining its cityhood in 1965, this capital city will mark its charter day today with an elaborate ceremony and the unveiling of a commemorative marker at the city plaza.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has declared June 19 a special nonworking day in this city to allow residents to celebrate the occasion.

Mayor Michael Fariñas will lead city officials and residents in paying tribute to Laoag's conversion to a city under Republic Act No. 4584. Former Ilocos Norte Representatives Simeon Valdez and the late Antonio Raquiza sponsored the bill that created Laoag City.

Some members of the city council, however, questioned the date of the city's charter, noting that the law was approved on June 19, 1965 but took effect only on Jan. 1, 1966.

Councilor Vicentito Lazo said Jan. 1, being the date of its implementation, should have been the fitting day to mark Laoag's charter.

Fariñas, however, said ceremonies would go on as scheduled while local officials form a consensus on the charter date.

Laoag's giant float, which won in the recent "Aliwan Fiesta" in Manila, will parade along the city's streets today. The float—decorated by homegrown crops like garlic, mongo, tobacco and corn—is a tribute to Ilocano agriculture.

Local officials said the city government is planning to make June 19 an annual commemoration following a research that Councilor Melvin de la Cuesta made in April.

De la Cuesta sought the declaration of June 19 as Laoag's official charter day after retrieving documents from the Senate's library and the National Library on Laoag's creation as a city.

The first officials of the city were the late Mayor Eulalio Siazon and Vice Mayor Mamerto Remigio, who died before he could finish his term. Then top elected councilor, Cesar Ventura, took over Remigio's post. Ventura would later become mayor in another mayoral race.

The once missionary base of Spanish *conquistadores* (conquerors) and the site of the first rebellion against the tobacco monopoly in the 18th century, Laoag has risen to be a top industrial and commercial hub today yet retaining its colonial charm.

Laoag remains a home to patches of brick and mortar houses from the Spanish period and American-inspired colonial houses that mix oddly with modern architectural designs.

The Ilocos used to be treated as one province until a royal decree in 1818 split the province into Ilocos Norte and Ilocos Sur, with Sarrat and Vigan towns as their respective provincial capitals.

Laoag eventually replaced Sarrat as Ilocos Norte's capital because of the former's larger population.

The Laoag uprising in 1788 was a precursor to the bigger rebellion in 1807 in Piddig town where the Basi (sugarcane wine) Revolt began. *Cristina Arzadon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

ROUNDUP

Voters' list cleanup

COTABATO CITY—Gov. Zaldy Ampatuan of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) has urged the Commission on Elections to clean up the list of voters in the region to improve the image of the region. He said he was saddened that the ARMM is being singled out whenever poll fraud allegations surface. Recently, the opposition accused Malacañang of rigging the 2004 elections by using ghost voters from the region.

Edwin O. Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Fighter plane jitters

COTABATO CITY—An Army officer has urged jittery residents here and in Central Mindanao not to panic upon seeing helicopter gunships and fighter planes of the Philippine Air Force flying in the region. The aerial display of combat aircraft prior and after the Independence Day celebration on June 12 were part of a "maintenance flight" to check these aircrafts' "air worthiness," said Col. Franklin del Prado, Army spokesperson of the 6th Infantry Division based in Camp Gen. Siongco in Datu Odin Sinsuat, Maguindanao. Many residents had expressed apprehension that a massive military operation could be taking place.

Charlie C. Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Students get help

COTABATO CITY—The Commission on Higher Education said it has set aside at least P1 million in emergency education assistance fund for deserving college students from Maguindanao this year. Fely Jimenez, in charge of CHEd's college study grant programs in Central Mindanao, said the study grant program will benefit 95 students enrolled in at least two private schools and three state-run colleges and universities identified by the district office of Maguindanao Rep. Simeon Datumanong. Jimenez said the Emergency Financial Assistance for Students is a new study grant program being made available to selected congressional districts, including Maguindanao's 2nd District.

Nash B. Maulana, PDI Mindanao Bureau

2 dead in Cebu fire

CEBU CITY—A businesswoman and her 6-month-old grandson were charred to death on Tuesday when their house was hit by fire in Sitio Sangi, Barangay Madridejos, Alegria, around 115 km southwest of Cebu City. Policemen in nearby Badian town, who also responded to the fire alarm, identified the fatalities as Cerena Bustamante, in her 50s, and her grandson Paul Ace. Alegria Mayor Raul Guisadio said. Police first responded to the fire alarm at 2:30 a.m. using the town's lone "firecycle" (a motorcycle equipped with four small tanks of water and other fire fighting paraphernalia). The town has no firetruck, he said.

Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau

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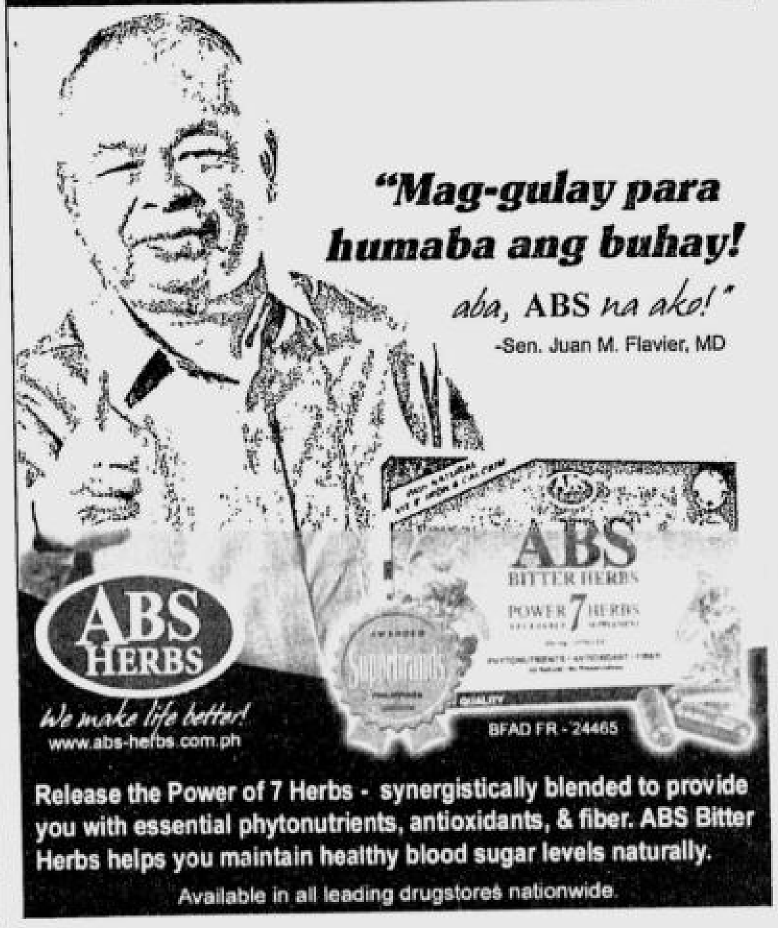

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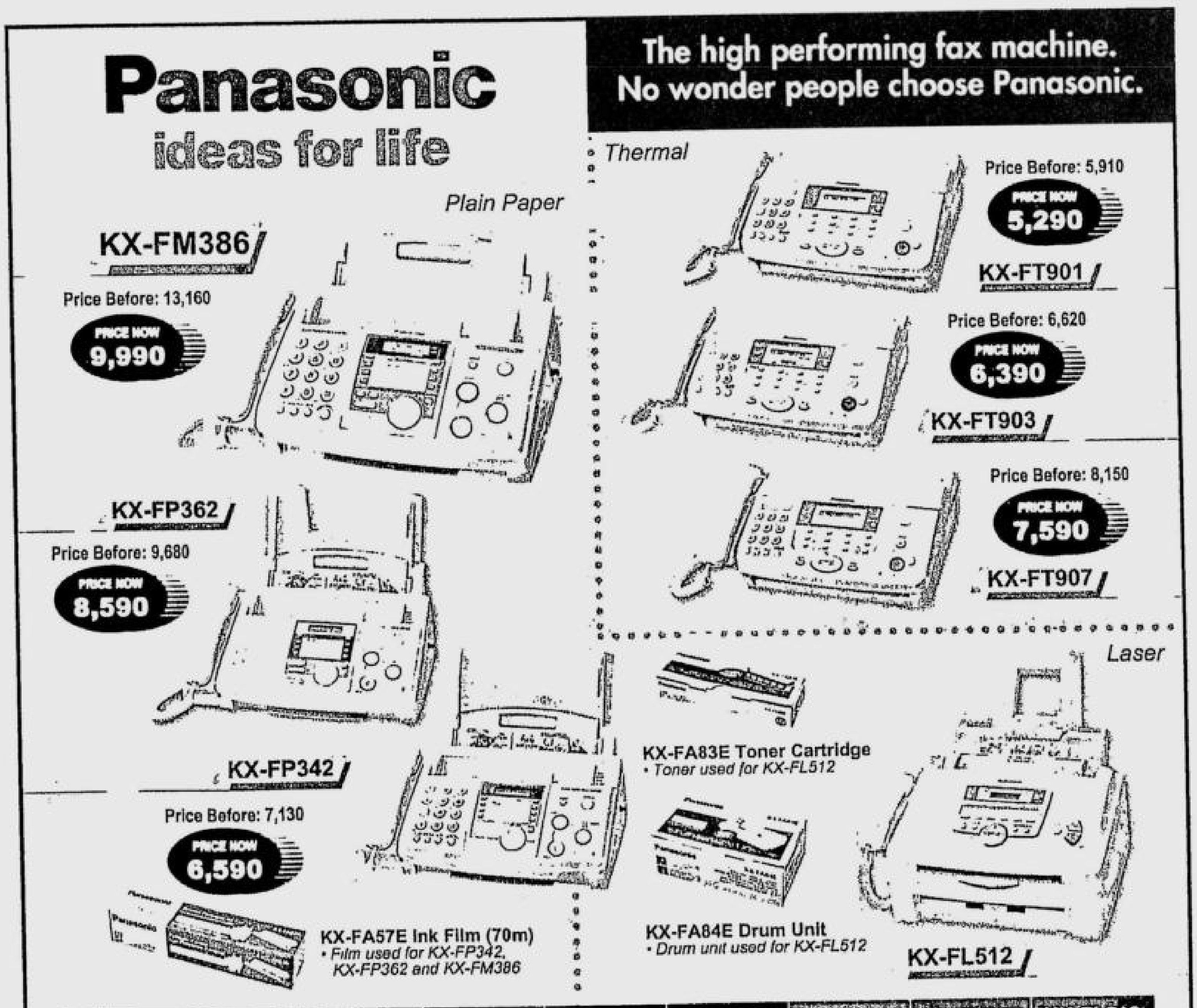

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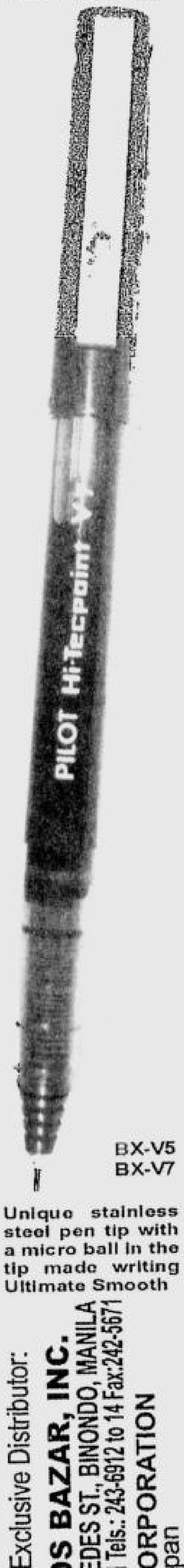

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BATANGAS
The Premier and Globally Competitive Province

Progress, growth assured now and in the future

Gov. Armando Sanchez delivers improved community services

Long regarded as one of the country's premier province, Batangas' role in the country's economy is significant, considering that it has one of the country's busiest ports and is home to a number of power generating plants, manufacturing companies and several special economic zones, all of which have been earning hundreds of millions of foreign exchange yearly.

The provincial budget has risen to P1.2 million under the leadership of Governor Armando Sanchez. This budget covers a comprehensive infrastructure program that seeks to lay the basis for long-term growth of both agriculture and industry.

Infrastructure program

Sanchez knows the value of pursuing an infrastructure program. Under his watch, 19 bridges were constructed and rehabilitated at a cost of P90,042,274 under the "Tulay sa Barangay Project." It is consistent with the President's Bridge Program.

The governor spruced up the Provincial Capitol at a cost of P98,476,526, making it truly attractive.

Apart from this, he also launched Batangas Provincial Employees Housing Project in Barangay Mahabang Parang in Batangas City and built the two-storey Music and Arts Building costing P12.9-million at the Provincial Sports Complex.

Large boundary arches were also erected at the boundaries of Sto. Tomas, Batangas and Calamba City, Laguna and Nasugbu, Batangas and Cavite.

Two big projects at the Provincial Capitol Complex will start this month – the Provincial Showcase Center and the Batangas Convention Center.

These projects are meant to attract more investments and visitors to Batangas, with the Provincial Showcase Center exhibiting the many traditional and modern products manufactured in the four congressional districts of Batangas.

It is designed to make Batangas products known far and wide and attract more markets here and overseas.

On the other hand, the Batangas Convention Center was conceived as a major site for conferences and big assemblies, in the process making the province attract more visitors from various organizations.

To ensure that Batangas could work on major construction projects using local workers and engineers, Sanchez purchased heavy equipment and set the stage for pursuing infrastructure projects and civil works.

In all municipalities and towns of Batangas, work gangs were also deployed for road and canal rehabilitation, riprapping and vegetation control, including the cutting of grass and other associated activities to make the province greener and cleaner.

Sanchez is concerned with making the people of Batangas more productive, and competitive and this is mirrored in his campaign to boost education and other programs targeting the youth and students.

Education and Youth Development

The Batangas governor has perhaps one of the biggest scholarship programs among all Philippine provinces, with 1,277 scholars now receiving P8,000 per semester.

Sanchez says the provincial government has appropriated the amount of P30 million annually for scholarships alone. Its annual payroll for 200 teachers hired by the Provincial School Board is P34.6 million.

Concerned as he is that more public schools must be built and the existing ones repaired, Sanchez and the provincial government spent P158.7 million for the construction and rehabilitation of these schools.

Sanchez likewise believes that schools are more than sturdy classrooms and buildings. They must be provided with the types of books and other educational materials to raise the intellectual maturity of students.

He established the Dalubhasaan ng Lalawigan ng Batangas (DLB), or the Provincial College of Batangas, in Barangay Bolbok, Batangas City precisely to develop industrious and competent students and raise the academic caliber of students.

More than this, Sanchez provided free education to students of the Batangas Provincial Science High School in Dacanlao, Calaca, Batangas and to those enrolled at the Batangas Provincial High School for Culture and Arts at the Batangas Sports Complex.

The governor has spent P63.5 million for the purchase of books alone while P26 million was also appropriated for the acquisition of desks and armchairs.

Believing that the best way for Batangas students to compete is to make them computer-literate and knowledgeable about the latest strides in information technology, Sanchez has distributed computer sets to public elementary and secondary schools in the province, with 36 beneficiaries to date.

Speech laboratories will be built in key municipalities to improve English proficiency and facility in communicating, which is particularly helpful to those wishing to land jobs in various call centers.

Health and Medical Services

Sanchez has been credited for instituting a system of health and medical services to an increasing number of children and adults in Batangs.

His "Save a Child Project and Feeding Program" has been supported by an allocation of P2.9 million even as the provincial government pursues its "Early Childhood Care and Development Program at a cost of P16.6 million.

The "Libreng Gamutan ni Gov. Arman" has already benefited 54,000 constituents all over Batangas.

Renovating the provincial and district hospitals in Batangas has already cost P8.5 million, and this amount includes the refurbishing of the surgical ward and dialysis center in Lemery town.

In confronting the menace of illegal drugs, Sanchez pushed the construction of the Batangas Provincial Drug Rehabilitation Center in Barangay Ticub, Laurel, Batangas.

To show that the provincial government is conscious of its role as a caring institution, Sanchez organized the Aid to Individuals in Crisis Situations (AICS) under the Emergency Assistance Program. AICS provides poor constituents with financial support to cover their medical needs.

Sanchez also embarked on providing indigents in Batangas with health insurance under the ACS-Philhealth program.

The anti-rabies campaign in Batangas is also proceeding without any hindrance and it is funded by a P2-million appropriation. The Task Force Against Avian Flu was organized and provided with a P6-million budget.

Livelihood

To date, according to Sanchez, 600 cooperatives have been assisted and monitored by the provincial government, consistent with its program to encourage self-help and focused, community-based development.

A linchpin in the development of the local economy is the livelihood assistance program, which Sanchez launched.

As far as rice production is concerned, the provincial government partnered with the Department of Agriculture (DA) to boost the ACS Hybrid Rice Commercialization Program.

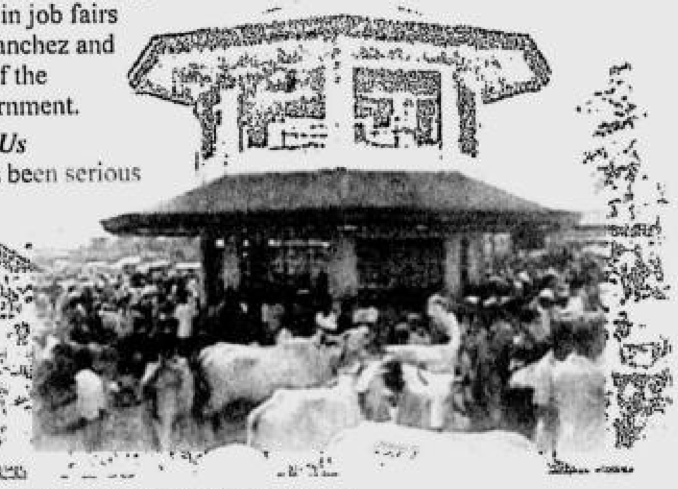
Sanchez also pursues the Cattle Breeding and Fattening Program (CBFP) with passion, believing that this economic activity would be of great help in increasing farm incomes. Batangas is known as a center for the trading of cattle.

At the community level, Rural Improvement Clubs (RICs) were organized and revitalized to imbue local folk with the need to promote village-based progress.

No less than 4,500 job applicants were processed in job fairs conducted by Sanchez and other officials of the provincial government.

Supporting LGUs

Sanchez has been serious in instilling teamwork among local officials and he started off with giving P1 million in financial assistance for 31 municipalities, which translates into P31 million.



Aside from this, Sanchez also supported 34 Associations of Barangay Captains (ABCs) in Batangas. Each ABC received P200,000 from the provincial government for a total of P6.8 million.

Sanchez has not forgotten the grassroots as well, giving each of the 1,080 barangays in Batangas P20,000. The total assistance is P21.6 million.

The provincial government has spearheaded the organization of 4,066 accredited members of the Alliance of Community Service Volunteer Workers (ACSVW) in line with the Accelerated Community Service Program (ACSP).

In support of the campaign for defending the environment, Sanchez gave P500,000 for the Integrated Coastal Management Program (ICMP) of the Batangas Bay Region, which is a pioneering program. The Task Force Kalikasan against illegal quarrying was also organized to check the destruction of riverine areas in the province.

The provincial government also provided P100,000 in calamity assistance to all 31 municipalities and three cities, which means P3.4 million in direct financial support.

Of note in the campaign against illegal gambling is the creation of the Task Force vs Jueteng and other illegal numbers game.

Sanchez also launched Patrol 117, an emergency hotline linking all local government units (LGUs) in Batangas. It will be operational by the end of this month.

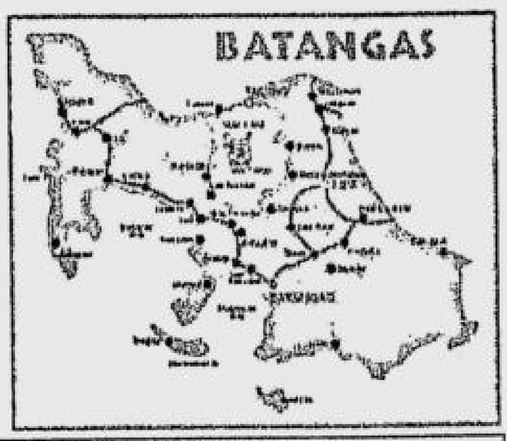
Visit Batangas and realize why Batanguenos are a proud lot!

First District: 8 Towns (Balayan, Calaca, Calatagan, Lemery, Lian, Nasugbu, Taal and Tuy)

Second District: 7 Towns and 1 City (Bauan, Lobo, Mabini, San Luis, San Pascual, Tingloy and Batangas City)

Third District: 12 Towns and 1 City (Agoncillo, Alitagtag, Balete, Cuenca, Laurel, Malvar, Mataas na Kahoy, San Nicolas, Sta. Teresita, Sto. Tomas, Talisay and Tanauan City)

Fourth District: 7 Towns and 1 City (Ibaan, Padre Garcia, Rosario, San Jose, San Juan, Taysan and Lipa City)



This report on accomplishments of the administration of Gov. Armando Sanchez is sponsored by the Philippine Ecozones Association of Batangas (PHILEA-Batangas).

Mission

Batangas exists to uplift further the quality of life of the Batanguenos through the provision of sufficient social and economic services, catalytic infrastructure projects, employment and livelihood opportunities and development of human resources.

The Provincial administration is committed to provide direction in strengthening local governance, adopt state-of-the-art information and communication technology, enhance sectoral participation, promote sustainable environment, advocate a conducive atmosphere for investment generation and resource mobilization.

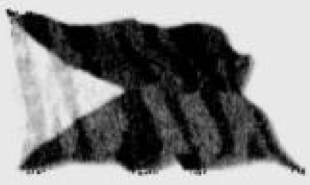
Messages

Doing business in Batangas is definitely a strategic decision. Industries come because they see a good future being in Batangas. Aside from the very good human resource and adequate infrastructure, what is also important is we have a good relationship with the local and provincial executives which allows for mutual respect The economic zones and the industries therein plus all the other industries in the province share the vision of the Governor and we are looking forward to doing better business in Batangas.

HECTOR Y. DIMACALI
President – First Philippine Industrial Park
President – PHILEA-Batangas

The Provincial Government of Batangas under the leadership of our Honorable Governor Armando C. Sanchez and the Provincial Veterinary Office, headed by Dr. Rodrigo Bautista, has spearheaded the awareness programs on issues concerning the swine and poultry industry in the province. Their undeniable support to our vision and programs help us attain our goals in the most desirable manner. Their role in the 1st Agricultural Summit, the creation of the Local Avian Influenza Task Force and other meetings with their offices truly made us feel their commitment to their mandate especially in the swine and poultry industry in the Province of Batangas.

LEO A. ALDUEZA
President – Assn. of Feedmillers in Southern Tagalog (AFST)
Vice-President – Batangas Egg Producers Assn. (Baepa)



SUSTAINING EMPLOYMENT GAINS THROUGH INDUSTRIAL PEACE

Proactive DOLE plus mature workers and employers equals six years of industrial peace

The formula that leads to industrial peace is simple yet striking. And it is successful. See the data.

From 2001 to 2006, there was a decline—and this decline is continuing—in the number of notices of strikes/lockouts: 623 in 2001; 752 in 2002; 606 in 2003; 558 in 2004; 465 in 2005; and a mere 153 as of June 15, 2006.

Out of these notices, actual strikes happened, but the numbers, too, were on a steep decline. From 2001 to 2006, actual strikes/lockouts across the country sharply decreased: only 43 in 2001; 36 in 2002; 38 in 2003; 25 in 2004; 26 in 2005; and only nine as of June 15 this year.

> ***"Industrial peace is good for the nation because it preserves jobs and encourages more investments."***

What's the formula?

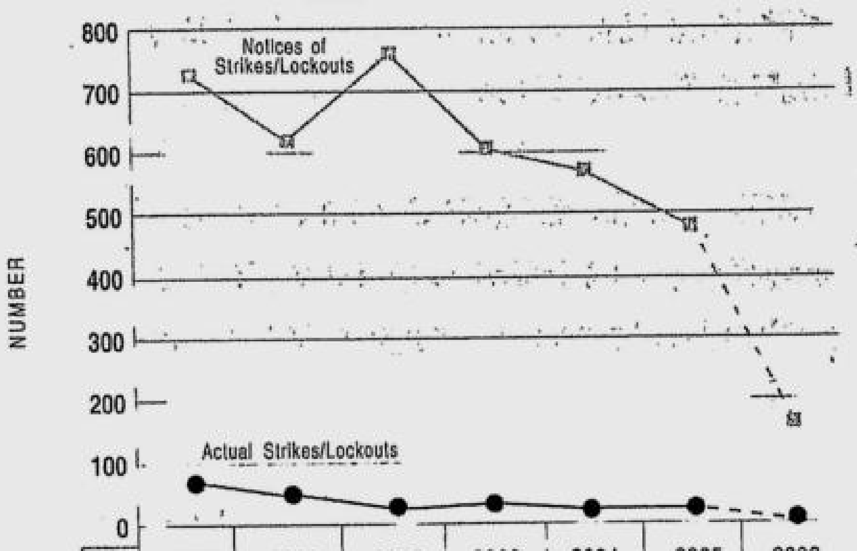
Labor and Employment Secretary Patricia A. Sto. Tomas, who assumed the stewardship of the department in February 2001, says it is basically hard, tiring work: Getting the workers and employers sit together in the negotiating table and exploring amicable points of agreement before a problem gets worse or, to be more precise, before a notice matures into an actual strike. Add to the recipe a healthy dose of mutual trust, and you reach a solution. It helps, too, that today's workers and employers are mature and responsible, she said.

Developing mutual trust, the DOLE found out under Sto. Tomas, means involvement and participation. In intensifying its conciliation and mediation efforts, the DOLE, in certain cases, involved sectors in the community—other government agencies, non-government organizations, self-help groups, the Church, even neighborhood associations. Said Sto. Tomas: "They, too, have a stake in ensuring industrial peace."

The DOLE has enlisted the participation of these sectors in conciliation and mediation through formal agreements, such as the ones it has forged with the Archdiocese of Manila and the Philippine Export Processing Zone Authority. "We have also been conducting a lot of training for our conciliators and seminars on labor and management education," said Director Hans Leo Cacdac of the National Conciliation and Mediation Board, the DOLE agency implementing the department's conciliation and mediation programs.

"Industrial peace is good for the nation because it preserves jobs and encourages more investments," said Sto. Tomas▲

Notices of Strikes/Lockouts Filed vs. Actual Strikes/Lockouts Declared 2000 - 2006 *



YEAR	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
-▨-	734	623	752	606	558	465	153
-●-	60	43	36	38	25	26	9

* Data for 2006 is as of June 15 only.
Source: National Conciliation and Mediation Board (NCMB)

tripartite declaration of principles

TRIPARTITE PARTNERS. The Philippines's delegation to this year's International Labor Organization convention in Geneva, Switzerland, where it forged the Tripartite Declaration of Principles, pose for posterity after signing the landmark document. (From left to right) Ranulfo P. Payos, Vice President, Employers Confederation of the Philippines (ECOP); Rene Y. Soriano, President, ECOP; Miguel V. Varela, Chairman, ECOP; Hon. Patricia A. Sto. Tomas, Secretary, Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE); Democrito T. Mendoza, President, Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (TUCP); Allan S. Montano, President, Federation of Free Workers (FFW); Luzviminda G. Padilla, Undersecretary, DOLE; and Benedicto Ernesto R. Bitonio, Jr., Chairman, National Labor Relations Commission.

The Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (TUCP) and the Federation of Free Workers (FFW), representing Workers; the Employers Confederation of the Philippines (ECOP), representing Employers; and the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) and its attached agencies, representing Government;

Hereby adopt and bind ourselves to this Tripartite Declaration of Principles toward employment creation and preservation, industrial peace, and economic development, as follows:

On Employment

Employment is the primary means by which workers and their families can live meaningful lives. Investments are essential to create and preserve employment. Harmonious labor-management relations, along with appropriate infrastructure, incentives and measures to reduce costs of doing business, are essential in establishing a competitive and employment-friendly investments climate.

Small and medium enterprises have a large contribution in employment creation. Their capacity, productivity, and knowledge base should be continuously improved. Their access to credit and markets should be enhanced. Strategic linkages with big enterprises should be encouraged.

We call on political leaders and development agencies to prioritize the use of development funds to support employment creation and preservation. There should also be equal priority to upgrading the skills, knowledge, and competencies of workers so that they can have better access to employment opportunities.

On Wages and Income

Wages must be just and adequate. Collective bargaining and negotiations are preferred modes of fixing wages and other benefits. On the other hand, the Regional Tripartite Wage Boards remain to be the most viable mechanisms in determining minimum wage increases.

Incomes must be protected. Wage-setting should be supported by policies that increase purchasing power, protect take-home pay, and promote access to social services. All sectors concerned, particularly the business sector, should ensure that prices are kept at reasonable levels. We support the granting of tax exemptions to minimum wage earners. We, likewise, call on national and local government leaders to allocate more resources to education, training and health services.

On Labor Standards and Productivity

Labor standards and productivity are mutually reinforcing. Labor standards make employee-employer relations fair and predictable. Voluntary compliance by employers with these standards motivates workers to be more productive, and enables both employers and workers to save on enforcement costs and maximize the use of their resources.

In this regard, we will jointly develop modules and undertake information and education campaigns to promote awareness of and compliance with labor standards. These shall be complemented by modules aimed at improving productivity, especially in small and medium enterprises.

On Labor Relations

The right to collective bargaining and negotiations is a right of both workers and employers. We will exert all efforts, including the conduct of tripartite information and education campaigns, to ensure that this right is exercised in a free and responsible manner.

For this purpose, the rules governing organization of unions and certification elections shall be simplified and liberalized. The goal should be to allow the parties, within the shortest possible time, to engage in collective bargaining and negotiations. Plant-level mechanisms that enable parties to directly share their gains shall also be supported.

Labor-management differences are best resolved by the parties themselves, or through conciliation or mediation. Accordingly, we will devise and support measures to enable workers and employers to directly resolve their differences and grievances.

Labor disputes are oftentimes inevitable, making compulsory arbitration indispensable. In this regard, we support measures to expedite arbitration processes so that disputes are resolved in the fastest, fairest, least expensive and most effective way possible. At the same time, we also support measures to improve predictability, transparency, and accountability in all labor dispute settlement agencies.

Implementation and Monitoring

Within thirty days from the signing of this Declaration, we agree to constitute a tripartite committee that will spell out the specific projects, activities, and funding requirements necessary to ensure that the foregoing principles are made effective. Thereafter, this committee, which will operate within the framework of the Tripartite Industrial Peace Council (TIPC) and other existing tripartite mechanisms, shall meet regularly to monitor the progress made by the parties with their respective commitments.

SIGNED in Geneva, Switzerland, June 9, 2006.

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VICTORINO F. BALAIS
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BENEDICTO ERNESTO R. BITONIO, JR.
Chairman, National Labor Relations Commission

LUZVIMINDA G. PADILLA
Undersecretary, DOLE

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Labor and Employment
Intramuros, Manila

Baguio mayor asks council to stop flyover project

BAGUIO CITY—MAYOR BRAULIO Yaranon is investigating the reported disappearance of trees he tried to protect from a government project that aims to build a flyover near Kennon Road and Marcos Highway.

Yaranon has refused to sign a tree-cutting permit that will allow the Department of Public Works and Highways to clear an area near the Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center (BGHMC) where the 297-meter flyover would traverse.

But residents discovered some of the trees dug out last week, near a drainage repair work site.

A worker there said government employees did not cut the trees but "relocated" them so they can proceed without violating any environmental rule.

Rebecca Luyk, a local environmental advocate, alerted Yaranon about the missing trees on Sunday.

Yaranon objected to the flyover project after he assumed office in 2004, citing anomalies in its development.

The project is one of a series of proposed road programs in the area pushed by the DPWH, using the P44 million that was left from the Japanese loan used to rehabilitate the Marcos Highway.

Government engineers originally proposed to build an underpass in the area to connect Kennon Road and Marcos Highway, but local environmentalists opposed them.

President Macapagal-Arroyo last year asked Public Works Secretary Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. to transfer the savings instead to Benguet road projects, but government engineers discouraged her, saying it would invite suits against her administration.

In a letter on June 8, Yaranon asked the council to cancel its endorsement of the flyover project.

He told the council that "up to 40 live trees, including several trees that are at least 50 to 75 years old, will be destroyed" by the flyover project.

"Technical malversation is evident [in the flyover plans] because foreign funds for the rehabilitation of the Marcos Highway is diverted to fund a flyover embracing Kisad Road, Kennon Road, Governor Pack Road and the Burnham Park [forest] reservation," he said.

"The flyover project, which has a total length of 297 meters, is not covered by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' environmental compliance certificate (ECC 0207-087-208)... which covers a project of only 178 meters," Yaranon said.

The second phase of the flyover project, Yaranon said, is not covered by this ECC. He said preparatory civil works at the site had left soil and debris that could soon clog Burnham Park's drainage system.

"The entire project is not covered by the requisite certificate of availability of funds needed to complete the flyover, hence provisions of the Revised Administrative Code requiring such certification before bidding and commencement of any infrastructure project have not been complied with," he said.

Yaranon said "there is no great public need for a flyover" at the BGHMC rotunda.

He told the council that the loan savings should be used instead to repair hazardous portions of the Marcos Highway "where dozens of lives have been lost in traffic accidents caused or aggravated by steep grades, sharp U-shaped curves and lack of provision for safety barriers."

Copies of Yaranon's letter were sent to Ms Arroyo, Ebdane and Secretary Silvestre Afable Jr., the Cabinet Officer for Regional Development in the Cordillera. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

GROUNDED BOATS DENNIS JAY SANTOS/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

This boy steps into one of the kayak boats in a beach in Matina, Davao City, waiting for someone to row him into the sea.

Many bat species now extinct, expert says

DAVAO CITY—MANY SPECIES OF bats have gone extinct worldwide while the populations of other species of the flying mammal are fast declining, an expert said.

Dr. Merlin Tuttle, president and founder of the Texas-based Bats Conservation International (BCI), said the decline in the global bat population could be blamed on misconceptions, the increasing number of bat-eating people, the disturbance of its habitat, and the careless use of pesticides.

On Thursday, Tuttle gave lectures to students here as part of his group's worldwide campaign on bat conservation.

He also visited a bat sanctuary in Malagos district and a cave in Babak, in Samal, Davao del Norte.

Norma Monfort, a trustee of the Monfort Bat Conservation Park in Tambo, Samal, said about 1.8 million bats abound in 70 caves on the island.

Two of the largest bats in the world, *Ascerodon gobatus* and *Pteropus vampyrous*, are found in the Malagos watershed in Calinan district here.

ILLUSTRATION ANTHONY MISTADES

Contrary to what is generally believed and feared about bats, Tuttle said the animal is actually not harmful and rarely attacks humans.

It is 20 times more likely that an individual may be killed by a dog attack, he said.

Bats are very important to the ecosystem and for the survival of thousands of other animals and plant species, Tuttle said.

In Australia, for example, a single cave can host an average of about one million bats, which can gobble up to some 200 metric tons of insects that are destructive to crops.

"So it's an effective insect control," he said.

But he warned that because the bat population was fast declining, the ecological balance could also suffer.

In Australia, the recorded bat population in the 1920s is about 28 million.

"But it has declined to less than half million now. The situation threatens the world's forests since trees are also dependent on bats for pollination," he added.

He said education about bats and a vigorous conservation effort could still reverse the population decline.

There are about 70 species of bats in the Philippines, Tuttle said. *Dennis Jay C. Santos and Judy M. Quiros, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

DENR to abolish some offices in Dumaguete, cut workforce

DUMAGUETE CITY—SOME ADJUNCT OFfices under the executive regional director of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and some Community Environment and Natural Resources Offices (Cenros) will be abolished as soon as the rationalization plan of the department is carried out.

Under the proposed rationalization plan for Central Visayas or Region 7, prepared by the regional office of the DENR, only 115 of the 155 employees will be retained, according to Charlie Fabre, of Cenro-Dumaguete.

Fabre disclosed that the proposed rationalization plan also recommended the abolition of four of the five offices under the office of the regional executive director.

Fabre declined to elaborate but said the proposal is to retain only the office of the regional technical director.

Fabre also said his office will be possibly abolished since under the plan, in areas where there is a Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (Penro) and a Cenro, the Cenro will be abolished.

The Penro in Negros Oriental is also located in Dumaguete.

Fabre added that casual workers of the Penros and Cenros in the region might also lose their jobs as their appointments that will end this month were not yet renewed.

The environment offices in Negros Oriental have 46 casual workers, who have been in the service for an average of 10 years, Fabre said.

He said the risk of losing their jobs is a probability, especially with the rationalization plan of the government, which mandates the streamlining of the government's bureaucracy. Those who will be retrenched will be offered an early retirement package, Fabre said.

He said the streamlining plan will be implemented as soon as the Department of Budget and Management gives its go signal. *Romy Amarado, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Death revives plan to drive away small miners in Vizcaya

BAYOMBONG, NUEVA VIZCAYA—THE Mines and Geosciences Bureau has revived its plan to drive out small miners in a remote village in Kasibu town, site of a proposed gold-copper site of an Australian mining company, officials here said.

Jerrysal Mangaoang, MGB director in Cagayan Valley, issued the statement after a miner on Wednesday reportedly inhaled fumes from blasted dynamite sticks that they had been using for their operations.

Mangaoang said they would again try to stop about 300 small miners who had trooped to Dinkidi hill in Didipio village and had been staging mining activities in the area.

"More deaths [will occur] if [this is] not stopped. [The miner's death] was a simple case of ignorance of basic safety precautions [after] gas accumulated inside [the tunnel]," he said.

Acting, provincial police director Senior Supt. Rogelio Damazo said Eugene Ansibey, 29, a resident of Didipio, died of gas poisoning while inside one of the mining tunnels there.

Didipio, located at the Maparang-Palali mountain range near the Nueva Vizcaya-Quirino border, is the site of a proposed large-scale mining project of Australasian Philippines Mining Inc. (Apmi), formerly Climax Arimco Mining Corp.

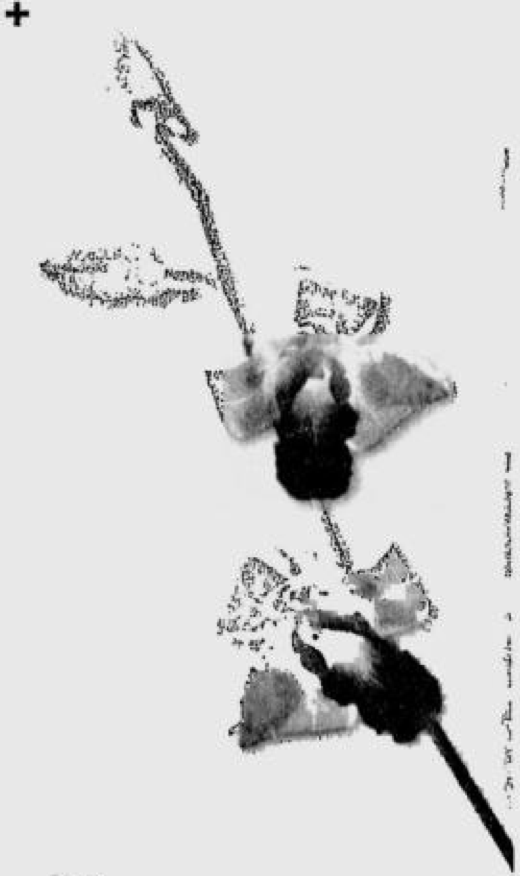
The company intends to push through with its $102-million mining venture, aiming to process about 4 million ounces of gold and 1.5 billion ounces of copper deposits.

The company, however, has failed to start operations due to resistance from local communities.

Since last year, the small miners, many of whom were villagers and settlers from Ifugao and Benguet provinces, have dug small tunnels on the hill to extract gold flakes.

It was the second death reported since the entry of small miners in the area. In January, another miner, Ananayo Namullag, was killed in a dynamite explosion.

Mangaoang rejected plans of granting permits to the small miners in Dinkidi hill, saying the location of the miners' operations lies directly above the ore-body which Apmi is eyeing to process. *Melvin Gascon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*



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Cheap drugs sold in Zambales village pharmacies

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—FOR 50 centavos, the 200 families in a community in Masinloc, Zambales, can buy a 500-milligram paracetamol tablet to relieve pain and reduce a fever.

A 500-mg mefenamic acid (pain reliever) capsule, 2-mg loperamide (anti-diarrhea), 300-mg isoniazid tablet (anti-bacterial and anti-tuberculosis) and a 200-mg ibuprofen (used to relieve headache) tablet are within their reach at P1 each.

Thanks to a Botika Natin sa Nayon outlet, generic medicines are available at "miraculously low prices" and 24 hours a day in Sitio Mandaloy in Barangay Taltal, Masinloc, said Genalyn Alvarado, a resident there and the team leader of the community pharmacy.

The Mandaloy pharmacy, which was opened on June 4, was the 86th outlet established in Zambales.

Alvarado said medicines in the community pharmacy were cheaper by P1 to P100 and residents save on fare money because they need not go anymore to the town proper as the medicines are sold right in the village.

That, she said, saves them P80 in jeepney and tricycle fares and at least an hour of travel. The village is 22 km from the national highway.

Mandaloy is one of the remotest communities in Masinloc, which hosts the coal-fired thermal plant of the National Power Corp.

Masinloc Vice Mayor Pepito Dimaculangan, a doctor, said the medicines are effective because these come from a distributor licensed by the Department of Health.

Dimaculangan has been encouraging residents to buy from the Botika Natin sa Nayon outlets, which were established in Zambales by the Zambales War against Poverty Foundation, DOH, the Department of Social Welfare and Development and Vice Gov. Ramon Lacbain II.

Community pharmacies have also been established in villages in Subic, Castillejos, San Felipe and Sta. Cruz towns and Olongapo City in the last nine months, according to Lacbain.

The foundation provides an initial stock worth P3,000 to each outlet. Funding came from the priority development assistance of Senators Edgardo Angara and Francis Pangilinan.

Each pharmacy is managed by 10 volunteers.

Alvarado said the Mandaloy outlet still manages to get a 20-percent income despite the low prices of medicines.

Lacbain said residents are provided a price list of medicines to guard against overpricing. The price list is also displayed in the store, usually a garage of a volunteer.

The medicines are strictly for family use and not for resale, he said.

Lacbain said the project has targeted to organize 200 Botika Natin sa Nayon outlets in Zambales and Olongapo City.

He appealed to overseas Filipino workers in those areas to support their initiative to bring cheap medicines within the reach of poor residents in the province.

BOTIKA Natin sa Nayon such as this is a one-table affair in Mandaloy but the village pharmacy makes available medicines at very cheap prices. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Mindoro mayor, supporters in sedition raps post bail

CAMP VICENTE LIM, LAGUNA—The unseated mayor of Lubang, Occidental Mindoro, and eight of his supporters surrendered to authorities on June 13 after warrants of arrest were issued against them for sedition, police said.

Calabarzon police director Chief Supt. Delfin Genio said former Mayor Policarpio Tesorio and his followers turned themselves in to the warden of the Mamburao municipal jail at around 10 a.m.

The suspects were detained but were eventually freed after posting bail, Genio said.

He said the incident could somehow reduce the political tension on Lubang Island.

"I would like to tell the people in Lubang that we are not taking any sides in this political issue. The police were there to implement a court order. We are just doing our job as law enforcers," Genio told the INQUIRER.

Tesorio's surrender came four days after 46 of his supporters, including six municipal councilors, were arrested in Lubang by members of the PNP Regional Mobile Group led by Supt. Reynaldo Rosero.

Judge Jose Jacinto of Branch 44 of the Mamburao Regional Trial Court issued the arrest warrants against the former mayor on June 5.

The sedition case stemmed from the complaint filed by Tesorio's political rival, Juan Sanches.

In April last year, Sanches was declared winner in the 2004 mayoral elections by the court of San Jose, Occidental Mindoro.

Despite the court ruling, Tesorio refused to vacate his post and holed himself up in his office.

Sanches, on the other hand, held office at the annex building of the municipal hall.

For 12 months, the small municipality of Lubang had two mayors, Genio said.

The problem started when employees loyal to Tesorio failed to receive their salaries as Sanches had earlier approved the appointments of their replacements.

Genio said that on June 12, after the Independence Day celebration, Sanches and his followers forcibly opened the mayor's office, which was ordered padlocked by Tesorio. *Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Janitor fish presence alarms Agusan fishers

BUTUAN CITY—FISHERMEN AT the Agusan Marsh in Agusan del Sur said they were alarmed by the increasing presence of janitor fish, a species from Brazil, and brought to the country as an aquarium fish.

Considered a parasite, the janitor fish devours everything, including algae and tiny crustaceans that are the natural food of local fish species, such as the mudfish, milkfish, tilapia and carp.

Janitor fish (*Hypostumos plecostumos*), also known as suckermouth fish, could grow up to 12 inches long.

Fishermen and scientists alike warned that if left unchecked, the presence of the janitor fish in the marsh could threaten the supply of local edible fish.

The Agusan Marsh is a wildlife sanctuary and is one of the country's major and important wetlands. It is also a major catchbasin in Mindanao with an area of 111,000 hectares.

Fishermen told the INQUIRER that the janitor fish was so prolific that lately, it made up the bulk of their catch.

A fisherman said the fish was seen early last year.

He said gill nets are also being damaged by the fish, which has very sharp scales.

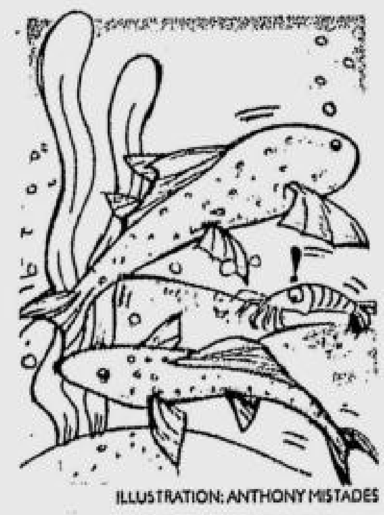
"They were very few then, but now we get as much as 10 pieces per hauling," another fisherman said.

Based on a survey conducted by Marianne Hubilla, a biologist from the University of the Philippines, janitor fish has spread to rivers in at least nine towns.

She said the "invasion" could be the result of "irresponsible dumping" by aquarium owners in Davao.

"For the fisherfolk, the janitor fish is a pest in the marsh. Aside from being spiny and cannot be eaten, it competes with other species of fish in terms of food and habitat," Hubilla said.

"It is an opportunistic species. They are an ecological and biological threat to other organisms." *Ramon Jorge Sarabosing, PDI Mindanao Bureau*



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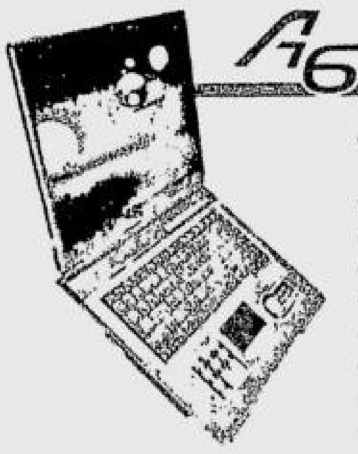

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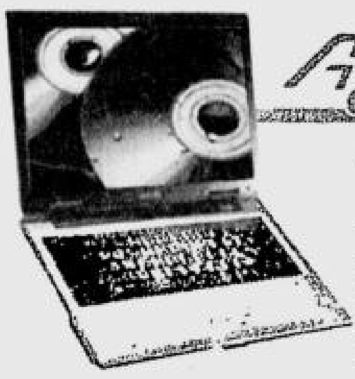

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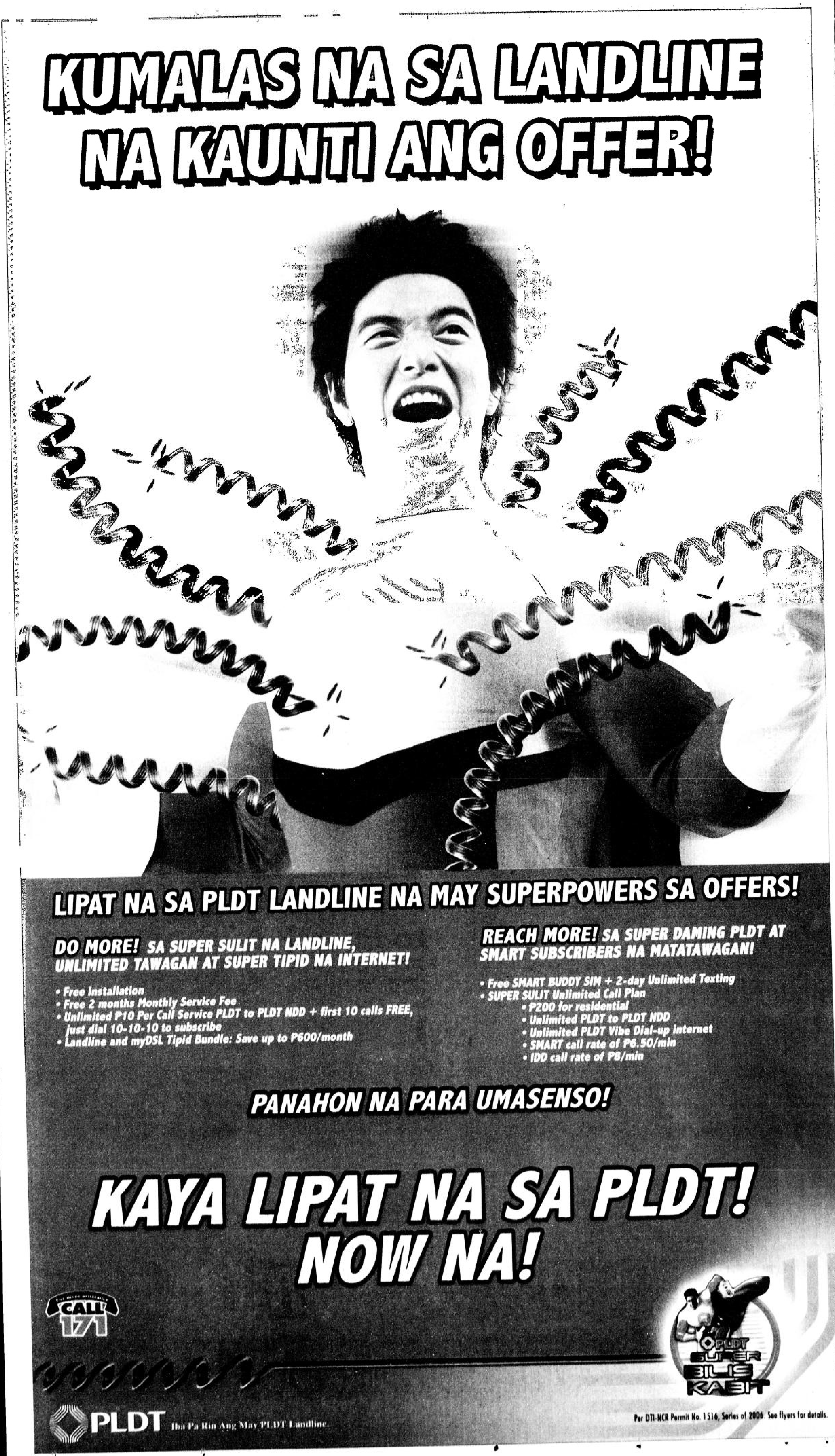

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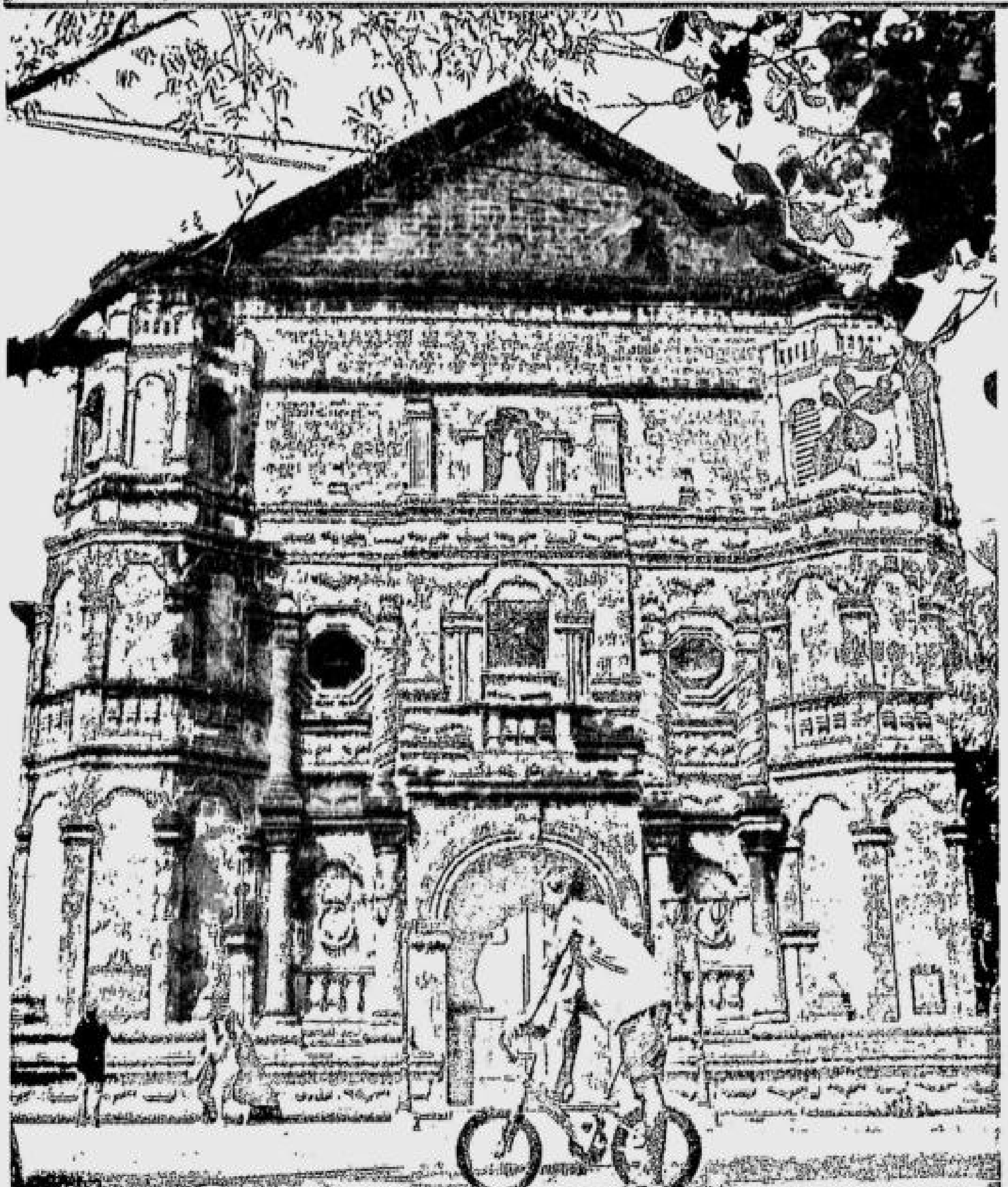

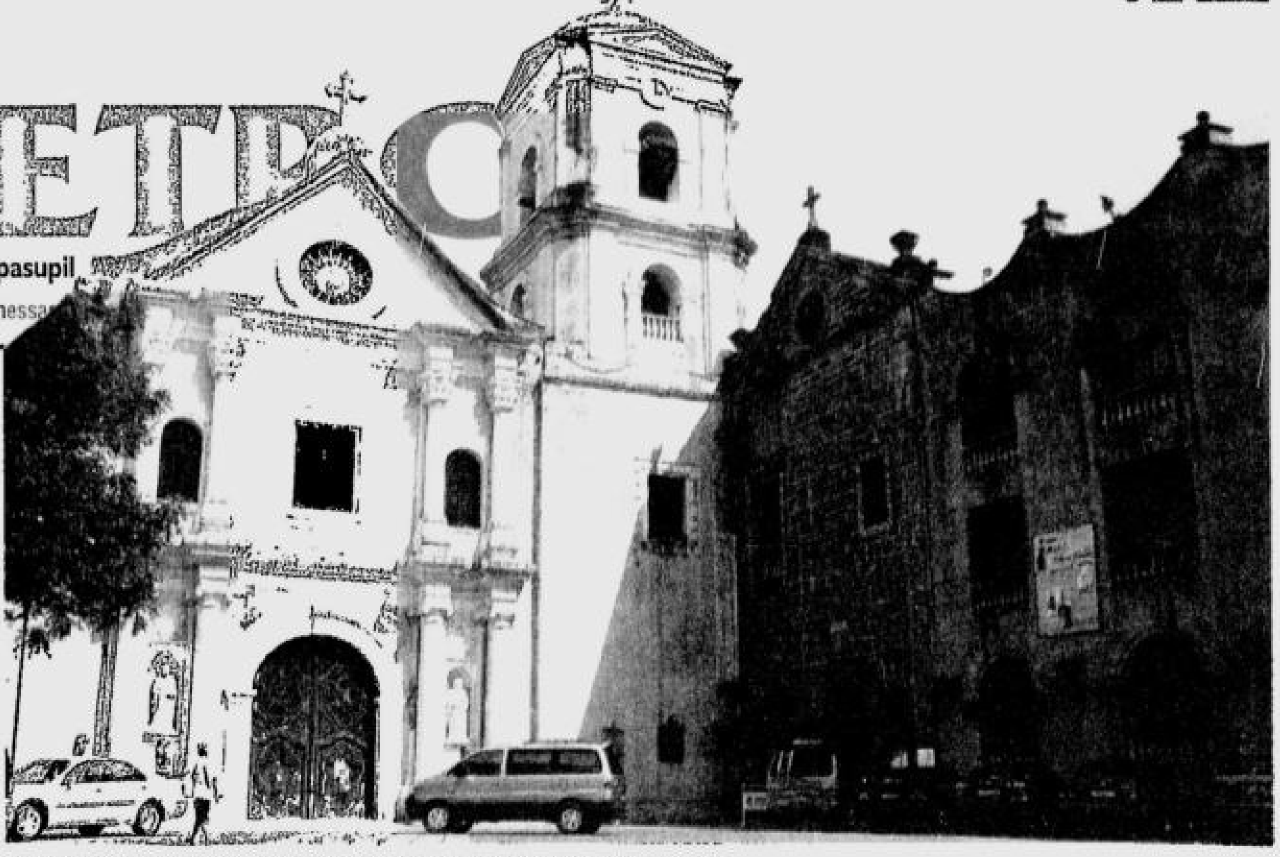

THE MALATE Church (left) and San Agustin Church in Intramuros.

PHOTOS BY RODEL ROTONI

Great churches of Old Manila

By Amadis Ma. Guerrero
Contributor

Awe-inspiring places of worship continue to rekindle people's faith in the Almighty

THE MORE GRANDIOSE THE new temples of worship, the better. This will bring the natives "under the bells" (debajo de las campanas). Thus reasoned out the Spanish missionary friars at the end of the 16th century and the start of the 17th century. The good fathers succeeded, perhaps beyond their wildest dreams.

Four hundred years later, more than 80 percent of the Philippines remains Catholic (practicing or nominal), despite the blandishments of other faiths.

The early churches, propelled by forced labor, were made of wood, bamboo and nipa. When these proved to be fire hazards, the friars turned to stone, corals, lime and mortar. Indio and Sangley artisans were taught to quarry stone, bake lime and create mortar by mixing lime or cement, sand and water.

And so great churches—mostly Romanesque-baroque—were constructed in Luzon and the Visayas. (Mindanao was then wild frontier land, with the Spaniards and Moros slugging it out.)

Tumultuous history

The history of these churches is as tumultuous as that of the country. Many have been destroyed by fire, earthquakes and war. Others have been reconstructed, restored or (horrors) renovated by insensitive parish priests.

For instance, the church in Malate, Manila (dedicated to Nuestra Señora de Remedios) was greatly damaged by the 1863 earthquake and rebuilt. A century earlier, British forces had used the church to protect their rearguard in the capture of Manila.

Today, a National Historical Institute marker pays tribute to the Columbian fathers and "tens of thousands of Malate parishioners who were victims of the atrocities of the Japanese Imperial Forces and American shelling during the Battle for Manila from Feb. 3-17, 1945."

The British forces also pillaged the church of San Agustin in Intramuros, Manila, in their infamous occupation of the city and country in 1762. San Agustin is the oldest stone church in the country, construction having started in 1587 and completed in 1607.

World Heritage Site

Interred here are the ashes of the early Spanish conquistadores like Legazpi. The church was chosen as a World Heritage Site by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco) in 1993. Its interiors are awe-inspiring, with their chandeliers (shades of "Phantom of the Opera"), towering *retablo* (altar backdrop), side altars and period pulpit.

Hidden in the loft is a formidable pipe organ which is used for international music festivals.

Also inspiring awe among the devotees are the interiors of the neogothic church of San Sebastian (which became a basilica in 1991) and the church of San Beda, dedicated to the Santo Niño Jesus de Praga.

The San Beda Abbey is relatively new, hav

GREAT/ A26

THE INTERIOR of the San Beda Church.

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QC, Rizal to share common burial ground for Muslims

By DJ Yap

A COMMON BURIAL GROUND for departed Muslims will soon be shared by Islamic communities in Quezon City and Rodriguez, Rizal.

A three-hectare piece of property at Sitio Maislap, Barangay San Isidro in Rodriguez is set to be developed into the "QC-Montalban Islamic Cemetery" under a memorandum of agreement between the two local governments units.

Quezon City Mayor Feliciano Belmonte Jr. and Rodriguez Mayor Pedro Cuerpo recently signed the MOA for the project which will be funded by a P5 million grant from the Kingdom of Bahrain to Muslims in Quezon City.

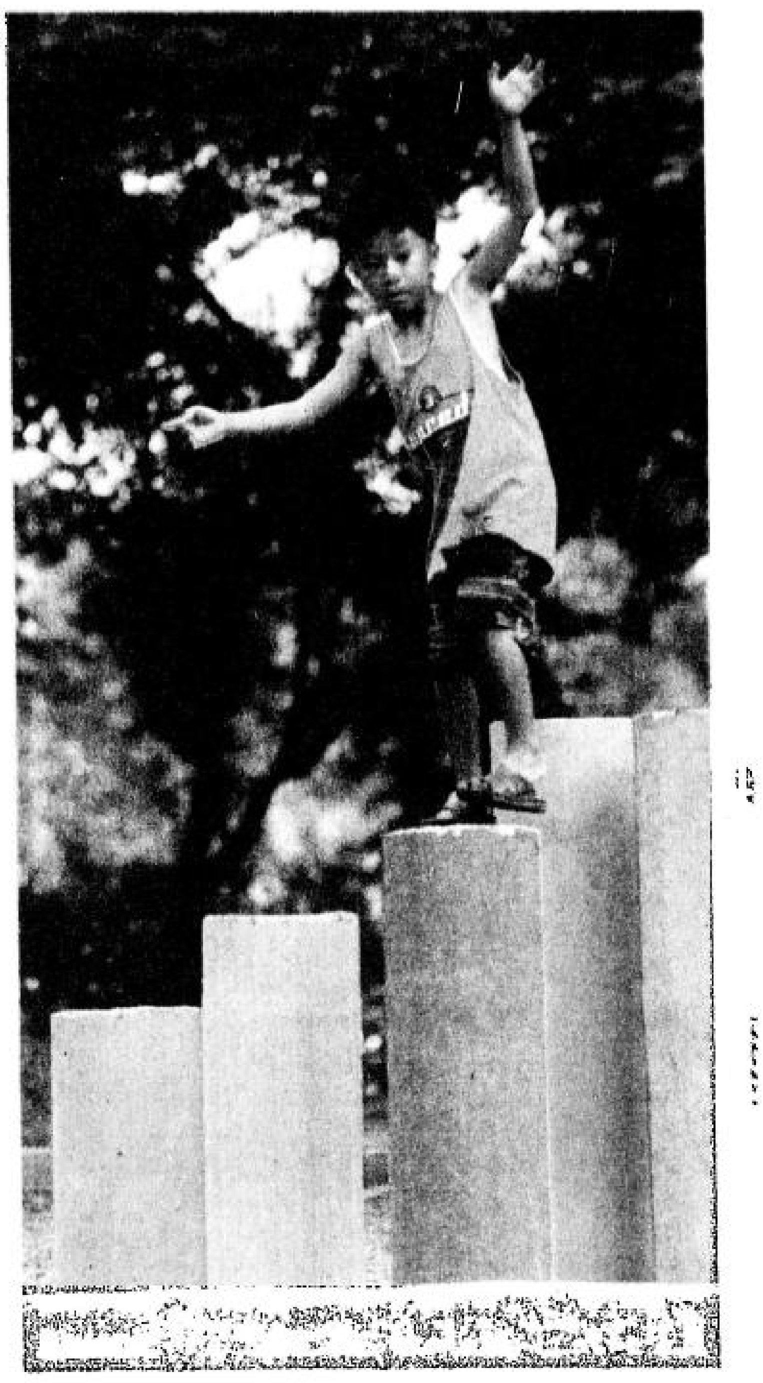
Under the agreement, Quezon City will transfer and manage the fund for the development of the cemetery, including the construction of perimeter fences and road networks.

In return, it will be allowed to use half of the three-hectare land free of charge.

The Montalban Islamic Affairs Council will be in charge of the cemetery on the Montalban side while the QC Muslim Consultative Council will be responsible for the other half on the Quezon City side.

The undertaking, a priority project of President Macapagal-Arroyo, is in partnership with the Urban Asset Reform Project Management Office, United Nations Development Programme, Office of the Special Envoy to the Gulf Cooperation Council and the Department of Finance.

Belmonte and Cuerpo described the project as vital in addressing the needs of Muslim communities in Quezon City and Rodriguez town.



STRAYING THOUGHTS

A boy's mind seems to be somewhere else even though he should be concentrating on where to put his foot down next, for a misstep could result in his fall. RAFFY LERMA

Manila Police: 'Ronda' effective crime deterrent

By Margaux C. Ortiz

THE REVIVAL OF THE "RONDA" (roving patrol) system is an effective way to ward off criminal elements in the neighborhood, according to the Manila Police District (MPD).

"The most common crimes nowadays are robbery and theft," MPD director Chief Supt. Pedro Bulaong said in a recent interview, explaining that the "ronda" system would ensure the safety of lives and property in the community.

Collective effort

"A conscious, collective effort to maintain peace and order in the neighborhood is far more effective than an individual or family-oriented approach to crime prevention," the MPD official added.

This advice as well as other tips against the proliferation of crimes against property in the city were included in a pamphlet distributed by MPD personnel last week.

BULAONG

Regular meetings

Bulaong said regular crime prevention meetings should be held to discuss the common modus operandi of criminals and formulate countermeasures against them.

According to a set of reminders listed in the MPD leaflet, a group of two or three resident volunteers can patrol the streets during a specific time and immediately alert neighbors through pre-arranged signals when a crime is in progress.

"If the *ronda* group is small, the time and area of the neighborhood walk should be known only to the leader of the volunteers," Bulaong stressed.

The MPD also reminded homeowners to jot down the telephone numbers of the nearest police station, hospital and neighbors.

Bulaong said children should also be taught to call up the police in case strangers or suspicious individuals hang around the house.

"Housekeepers should be required to give their employers police clearance and pictures," Bulaong said, adding that it would be better if the house help are recommended by relatives or friends.

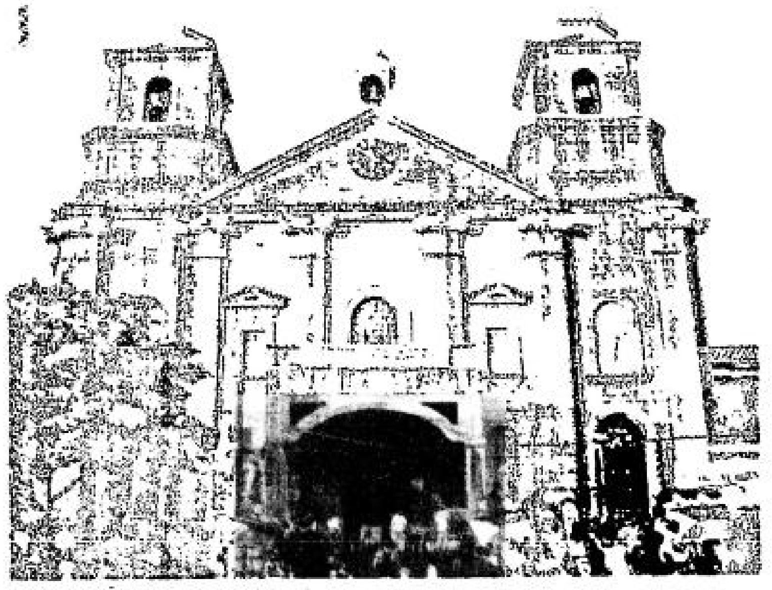
He also advised residents to install peepholes in their doors or gates for the immediate identification of visitors.

Off limits to strangers

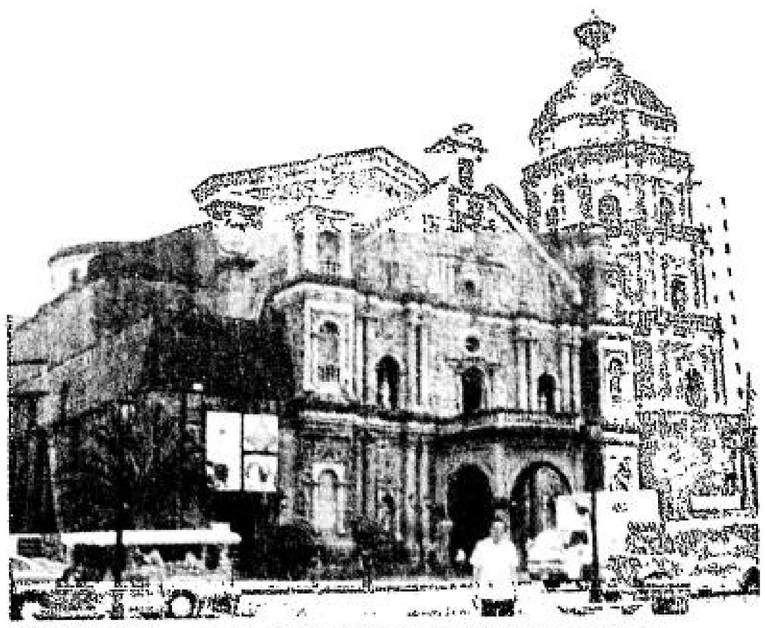
Under no circumstances should strangers be admitted inside the house, according to the pamphlet. Transactions should be made at the door to prevent strangers from seeing the inside of the house.

"Never tempt potential offenders with a full view of your house. Install curtains or cover appliances and other expensive equipment and do not leave clothes hanging on the clothesline at night," Bulaong said.

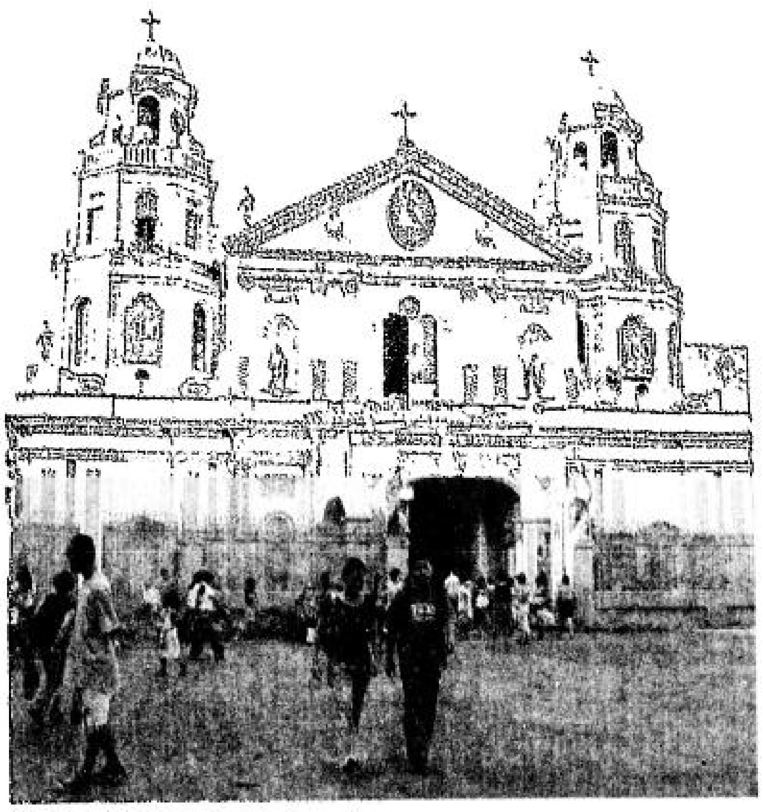
The MPD pamphlet also stressed that during stormy weather, door and window locks should be double-checked and empty cans placed in strategic places to alert homeowners in case intruders enter the house.



STO. NIÑO Church in Tondo



BINONDO Church, the Catholic temple of Chinese devotees.



QUIAPO Church: for the 'masa'.

Great churches of Old Manila

From page A25

ing been constructed in 1925. It is distinguished by its paintings done in the 1930s by Fr. Lesmes Lopez, assisted by a lay brother, Salvador Alberich.

All-steel structure

The church of San Sebastian, dedicated to the Our Lady of Mount Carmel, was the second all-steel structure in the world then, next only to the Eiffel Tower in Paris. Earlier churches on the site had been destroyed by earthquakes, so the Recollect fathers decided on an all-steel structure.

"A church of steel, made to last for all time," declared church historians Pedro Galende, OSA, and Rene Javellana, SJ. The prefabricated metal was manufactured in Belgium by Belgian engineers, and the parts sent to Manila via steamships. The church was blessed in 1891 and declared a National Historical Landmark in 1973.

Another interesting old church is the Santa Ana, which was established by the Franciscan missionaries outside the Walled City of Manila in 1578. The cornerstone of the present church was laid down in 1720. The church is dedicated to the Our Lady of the Abandoned ("Inang Mapag-ampon"), and was the site of archaeological diggings some years back.

Familiar landmark

Near San Agustin in Intramuros is a familiar landmark in the city, the majestic Manila Cathedral. It had been a hulk of a building for many years in the late 1940s and early 1950s—various churches had been built and destroyed in Manila during the centuries—until it was finally reconstructed and restored to its former glory in 1958.

One of the country's most venerable institutions is the "Basilika ng Nazareno" or the Quiapo Church, which is commemorating the fourth centenary of the Black Nazarene. A fire in 1929 devastated the church, leaving only its walls and belfry. Architect Juan Nakpil (who was later named a National Artist) drafted the plans for the reconstructed church.

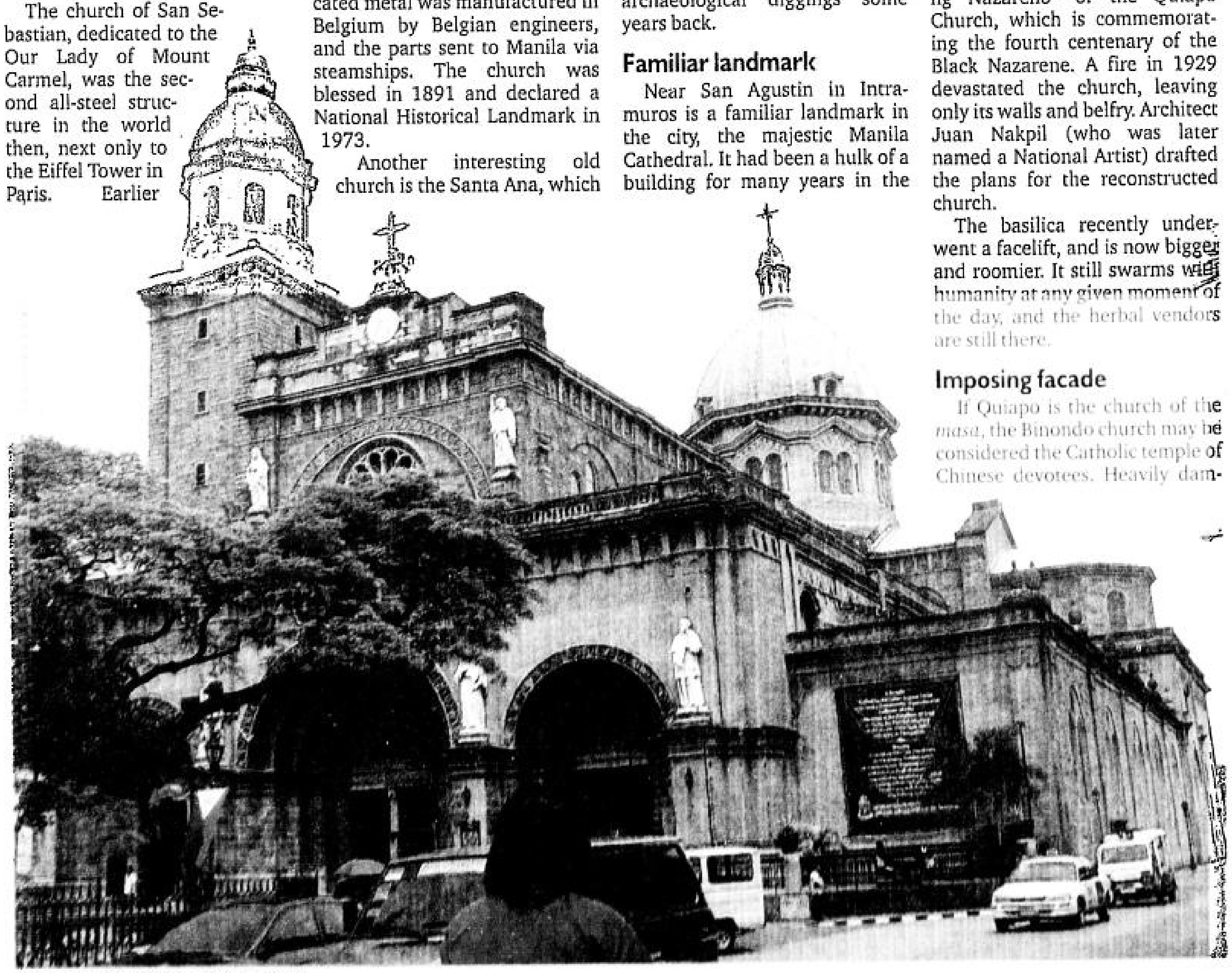
The basilica recently underwent a facelift, and is now bigger and roomier. It still swarms with humanity at any given moment of the day, and the herbal vendors are still there.

Imposing facade

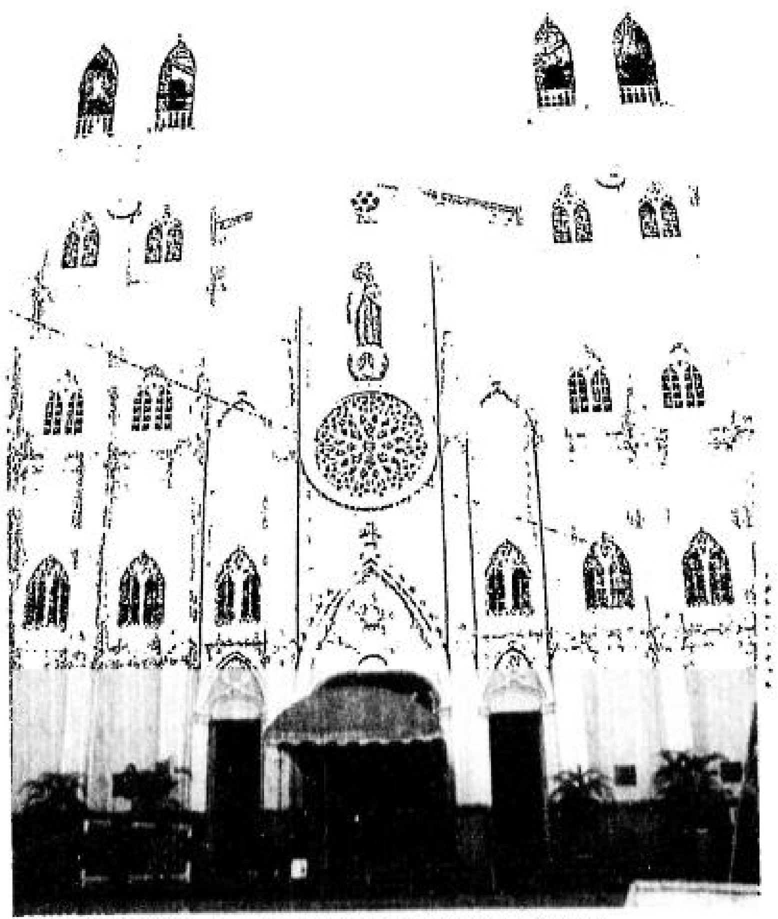
If Quiapo is the church of the *masa*, the Binondo church may be considered the Catholic temple of Chinese devotees. Heavily damaged in World War II, it was rebuilt during the 1970s. Its imposing façade is a tribute to the Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary and the Infant Jesus.

There are more churches to visit but we end our journey in Plaza Moriones, Tondo, at the landmark to National Artist Amado V. Hernandez. Here stands the Santo Niño church, with its impressive dome, exuding a sense of scale and grandeur in a busy proletarian setting.

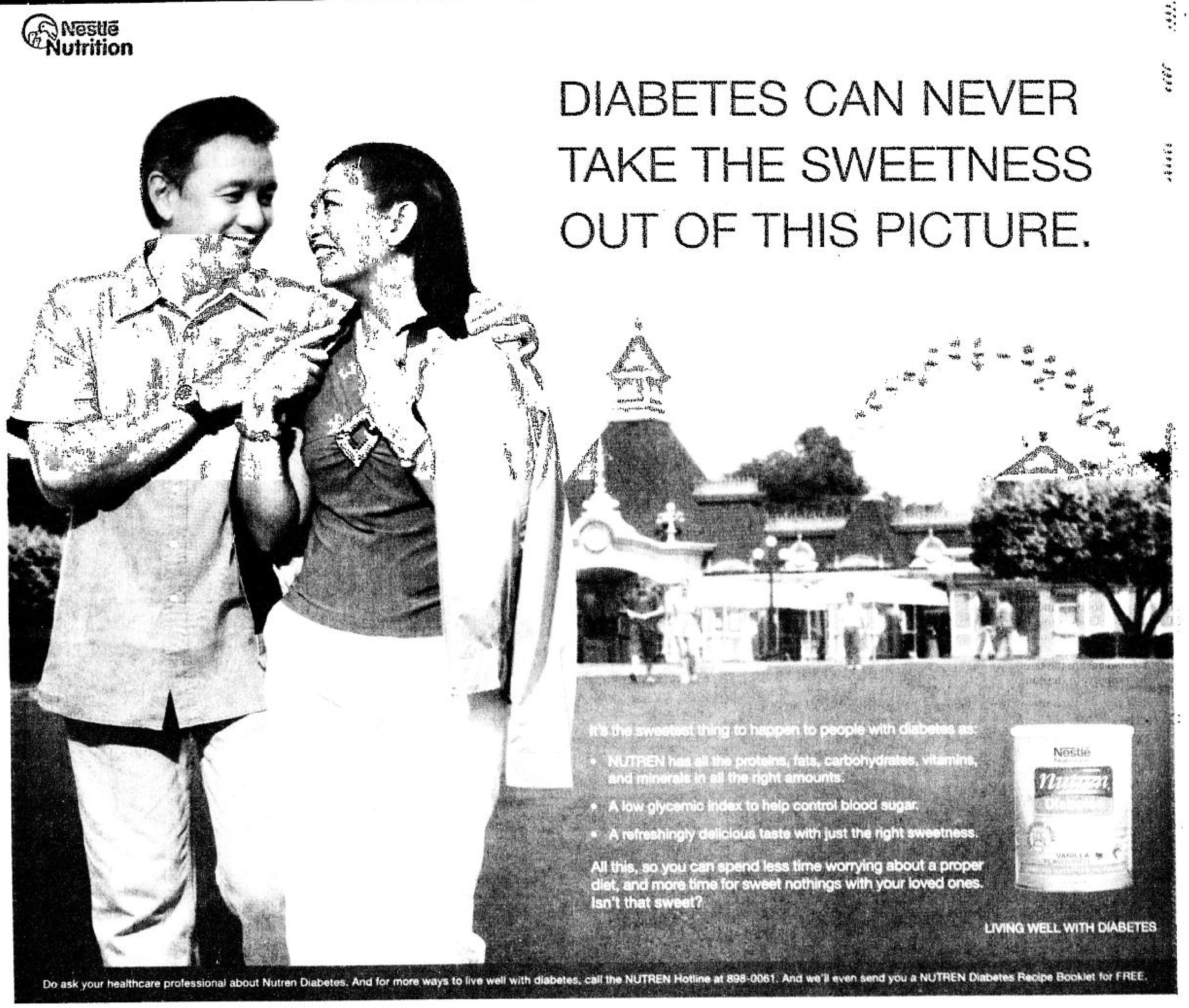
Bowed by the weight of centuries and the burden of history, survivors of man-made and natural catastrophes, the great churches of Old Manila always serve to rekindle one's faith in the flawed but beautiful religion of our forefathers.



THE MAJESTIC Manila Cathedral



THE ALL-STEEL structure of the San Sebastian Church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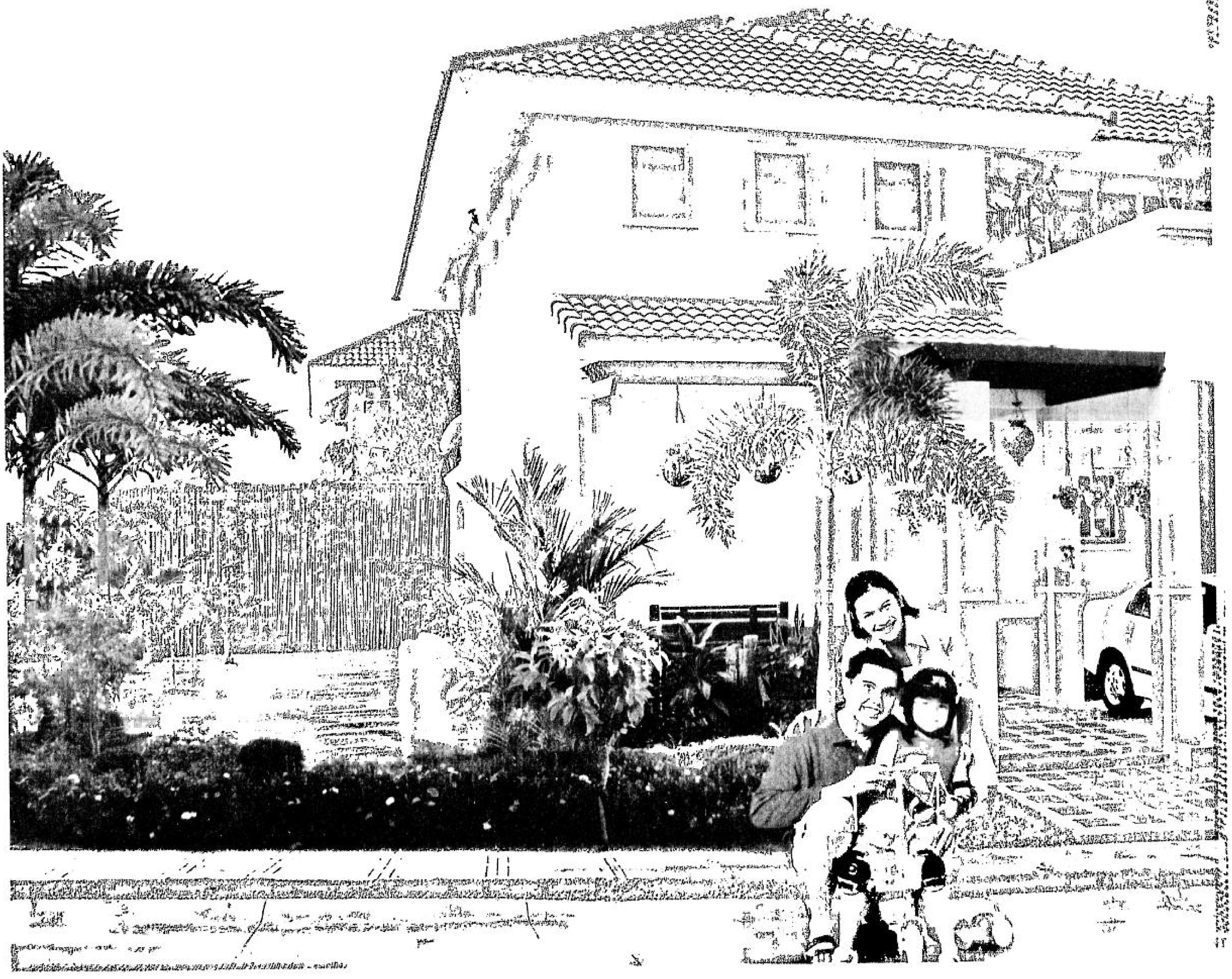


DENR: Marcos-Sumulong Highway hot spot for hot logs

By Blanche S. Rivera

THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT and Natural Resources is keeping an eye on the Marcos-Sumulong Highway—a route which illegal loggers could be using to transport wood products from Sierra Madre to Metro Manila and other parts of Luzon.

Environment Undersecretary Roy Kyamko, deputy head of the National Anti-Environmental Crime Task Force (NAECTF), said operatives seized 8,540 feet of hardwood species like *narra* and *lauan* from Barangay Daraitan in Tanay, Rizal earlier this month.

Barangay Daraitan is a 45-minute drive from the Marikina-Infanta Road that links Tanay to the Marcos-Sumulong Highway, a known route taken by vehicles carrying undocumented timber to lumberyards and sash factories in Rizal and Metro Manila, according to the DENR.

"Our people manning the DENR checkpoints along a road connecting the barangay to the main road in Tanay will have a lot of explaining to do for their failure to apprehend these vehicles," Kyamko said in a statement.

Another 2,000 board feet of hardwood species were also seized in Gen. Nakar, Quezon, which was devastated by flash floods and landslides in 2004 allegedly due to deforestation.

The DENR has identified eight major routes in Metro Manila frequently used by illegal loggers to transport their timber to the metropolis and other parts of Luzon.

Aside from the Marcos-Sumulong Highway, the Batasan-Litex Road-Commonwealth intersection is also being eyed by police for its proximity to Marcos Highway.

The North Diversion Road-Quirino Highway-Andres Bonifacio intersection was also identified, along with the nearby MacArthur Highway forming the boundary of Manila and Bulacan.

The other "hot" routes for illegal loggers coming from the south are the North Diversion Road-Malinta Interchange, the North and South Harbor exits in Manila leading to the Cavite Coastal Road-Aguinaldo Highway intersection, and the San Pedro, Laguna-Muntinlupa portion of the South Luzon Expressway.

Kyamko said a resident of Barangay Daraitan, which sits on the boundary of Rizal and Quezon, had informed the DENR that 10-wheeler trucks have been going in and out of the barangay loaded with timber that probably came from the Sierra Madre.

The Sierra Madre was declared a protected area under Proclamation 1636, which means harvesting of trees and other forest products is highly restricted and requires a special permit from the DENR.

The NAECTF operatives, along wth Tanggol Kalikasan volunteers and the Philippine Army, also found a logpond in Barangay Pagsangahan in Gen. Nakar. Some hardwood logs had been left in the area, apparently set to be transported to Metro Manila, according to Kyamko.

Self-defense, says suspect in OFW's killing

By Chito A. Fuentes and Nancy C. Carvajal

A BOHOLANA HAS ADMITTED killing a fellow overseas Filipino worker whose body was found inside a traveling bag in Quezon City on June 15.

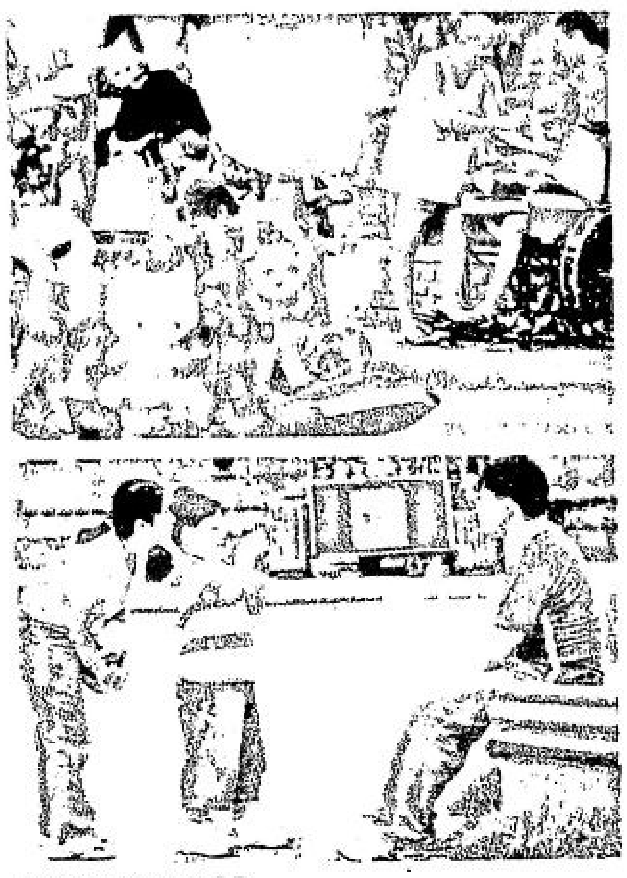
Grace Abuyabor Cuba, 34, a resident of Tagbilaran City, however, insisted that she acted in self-defense when she killed Rosita Sarin following a heated argument.

"It was self-defense. She was the first one who got hold of a knife and stabbed me. I never intended to kill her. My mind just went blank," she told reporters.

Cuba said she and Sarin had an argument on June 14 inside her apartment in Project 8, Quezon City. She claimed that Sarin had told her Lebanese husband, who is working in Italy, that she (Cuba) had an affair with another man while working in Taiwan.

The two argued and Sarin got hold of a kitchen knife, Cuba said. She added that she managed to take the knife away and stabbed Sarin repeatedly.

The victim's body was found the following day, stuffed in a traveling bag, by a taxi driver who told the police that it had been left by a woman who had asked to be taken to the airport. Police later identified the woman with the taxi driver's help.



TIME WITH DAD
Fathers and their children bonded yesterday as the country celebrated Father's Day. At the UP Diliman campus, a man took his son on a bicycle ride around the Academic Oval (left) as another pair went on a stroll along Roxas Boulevard in Manila, stopping along the way to have a snack (top right). Just a few meters away from them, a young boy took a picture of his father.
PHOTOS BY RYAN LIM, RAFFY LERMA

METROBRIEFS

Rains no protection from fires, says cop

ALTHOUGH the rainy season may provide a respite from fire incidents, the Manila Fire Department yesterday warned the public against taking precautionary measures for granted. "The number of fire incidents significantly decrease during the rainy season," SFO2 Gaudencio Magallanes said in an interview. He stressed, however, that illegal electrical connections abound all year, causing most blazes in the city. "Illegal electrical connections and jumpers often result in conflagrations in densely populated areas like Tondo and Sampaloc," Magallanes noted, adding that electrical wirings top the list of fire hazards in the city. The arson investigator said they conduct daily fire prevention inspections in different parts of the Manila. "But we need the help and cooperation of the public to succeed in controlling the number of fire incidents all throughout the year," Magallanes added.

Margaux C. Ortiz

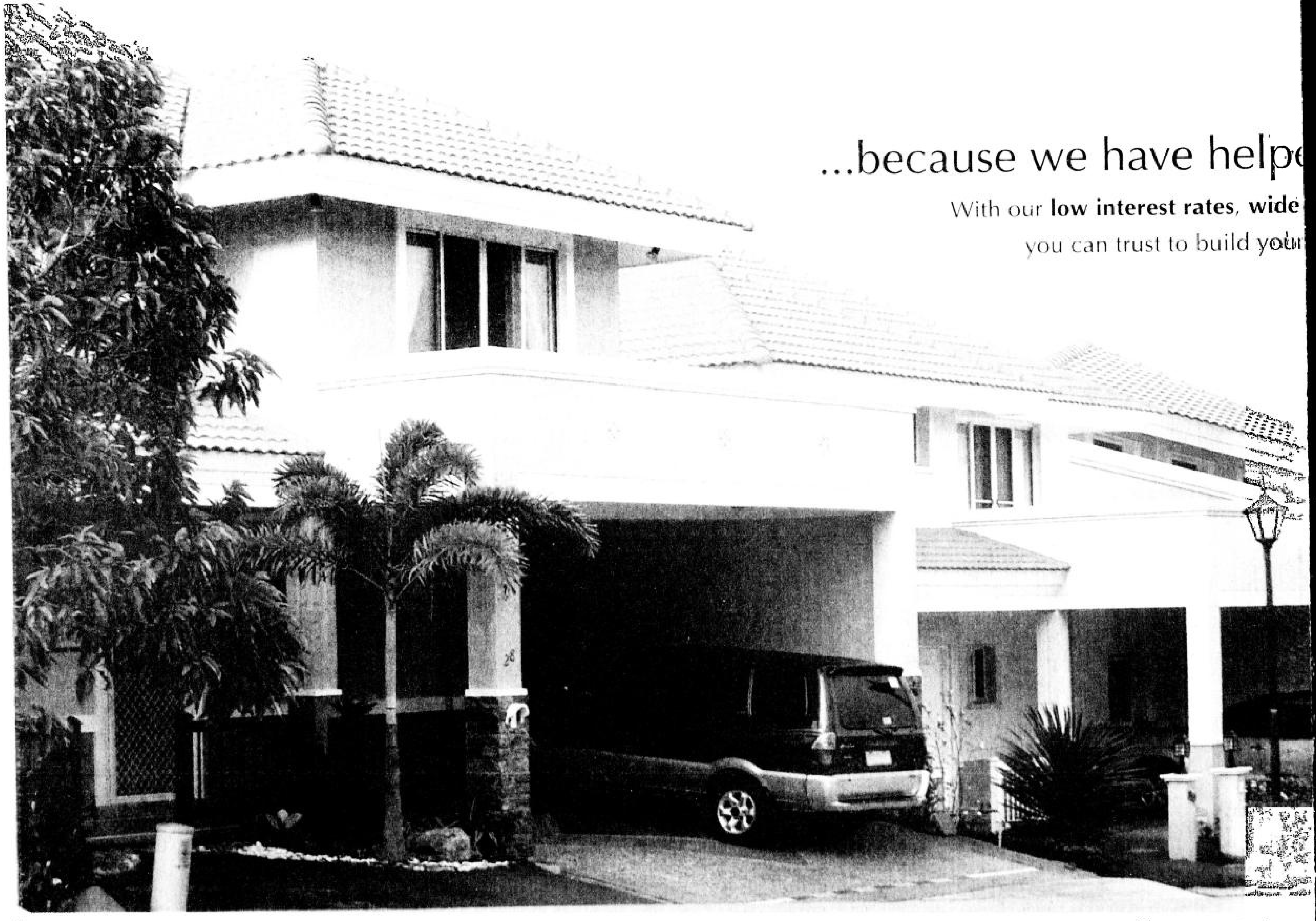
Mauled to death?

A MASON believed to be the victim of a mauling was found dead minutes after a drinking spree with co-workers before dawn yesterday in Quezon City. The body of Harold Tayag, a stay-in worker at Queensgate Townhomes in Barangay Mariana, was discovered at 3:10 a.m. at the corner of Madison Street and Aurora Boulevard. Investigator SPO2 Jun Cuaresma of the Quezon City Police District said the victim had a broken skull, which he likely sustained from blows using a hard object. The victim was last seen alive while drinking beer with five co-workers at the Four Aces Videoke Bar on Aurora Boulevard in San Juan, police said. One of his companions, Elmer Patawaran, told the police that he and the four others went home at about 3 a.m., leaving Tayag at the bar. After a few minutes, Tayag also left the bar. No suspect for his death has been identified, and the motive remains unknown, police said.

DJ Yap

Winning grant proposal seminar

TRITIUM Knowledge Center Publishing will conduct a "winning grant proposal writing" seminar for nongoverment organizations, foundations, research groups, consulting firms, universities and local governments on June 28. The speakers at the seminar, to be held at the Richville Hotel in Mandaluyong, are Arnold Divino, coordinator of Canada Fund; Angelita B. Cunanan, coordinator of the Small Grants Program of the United Nations Development Program and Katherine G. Contreras, program officer of Metrobank Foundation Inc. For details, please call 531-0084 or cell phone numbers 0919-2299777, 0919-2299780 and 0915-7804379.



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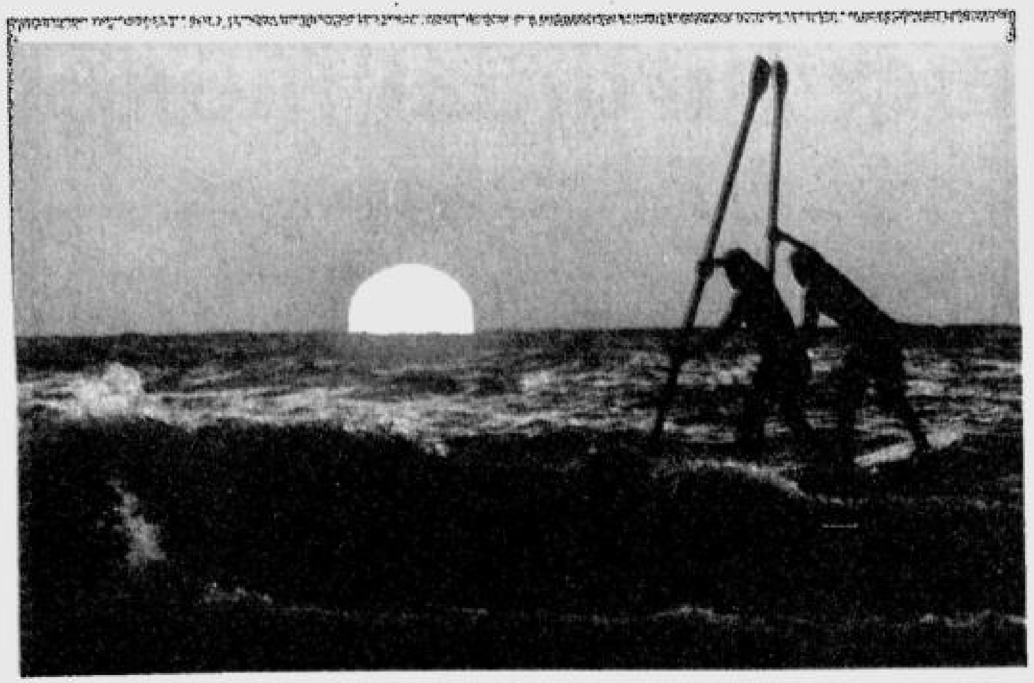


YOUNG Palestinians paddle on a board on the Mediterranean off the Gaza City beach as the sun sets June 17. Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas has called for an international probe of a June 9 Gaza beach blast that killed eight civilians, six from the same family. AP

Gazans barely scrape by as aid cutoff takes hold

JABALIYA CAMP, GAZA STRIP—IN the fourth month without salaries from the Hamas-led Palestinian Authority, the Abu Rizek family scours greenhouses after the harvest, looking for potatoes left in the ground.

Mariam Al Wahedi no longer receives her $21 a month from social services and is living off the $200 she got last month by selling her last piece of jewelry, a bracelet given to her 30 years ago. Khalid Muhammad, a policeman, moonlights in a friend's shop, selling used cell phone batteries for $2.25, and says he now yells at his wife and sometimes hits his children. Umm Jihad, with six children, begs in the market.

Awni Shibrawi, a jeweler, admits that he is almost too bad-tempered to go to work in his shop and sit all day doing nothing. Khadida Farajabah, a vegetable seller, says she has granted nearly $2,000 in credit, digging out the list she keeps inside her blouse, and cannot afford to give any more. Majid Nofad, a butcher, says business is down 60 percent and he has stopped giving credit after the total mounted to nearly $3,000.

More middle-aged men can be seen on the piers of Gaza, fishing with boys, to try to catch some protein for dinner. Couples are postponing marriage. Muhammad Kahloot, a colonel in the Palestinian police, is trying to decide whether he can afford the $700 his son, Khaled, needs to finish his last semester at the university, or whether to use the money for food and utilities.

When Kahloot uses his cell phone, he hangs up quickly, so his number appears as a "missed call" and he is not charged, leaving it up to a friend to phone him back.

Muhammad, 31, the moonlighting policeman, has four children. "When my wife goes to the grocery, the owner says, 'Where's the money?' And she says, 'Maybe today, maybe tomorrow,' and this way we pass the time." Muhammad said, the family eats beans and local greens, which are about 20 cents a pound. "Forget about meat," he said, laughing. "We don't know the chicken anymore. We hear in the news about the fish." *NYT*

US staged 340 air strikes in Afghanistan in 3 months

WASHINGTON—US AIR STRIKES IN Afghanistan have surged in the past three months as fighting has spread, The Washington Post reported Sunday.

Washington carried out 340 airstrikes in that time frame, "more than twice the 160 carried out in the much higher-profile war in Iraq," the report said, citing the US military headquarters for the Middle East.

The report also said the the airstrikes "appear to have increased in recent days as the United States and its allies have launched counteroffensives against the Taliban in the south and southeast, strafing and bombing a stronghold in Uruzgan province and pounding an area near Khost with 500-pound bombs."

Many of the airstrikes have been conducted with aircraft ranging from B-52 bombers to small Predator drones, the Post added.

Ten Taliban were killed in fresh fighting in Afghanistan, officials said Saturday, taking the rebel death toll to around 100 since a major new military operation was made public three days ago.

Seven died in the southern province of Kandahar, where the Taliban rose to take control of the government in 1996, in the hours-long gunfight that erupted after rebels stormed a district government office at midnight.

Afterwards, "the Taliban fled, leaving the seven bodies at the site," interior ministry spokesperson Yousuf Stanizai told AFP. "One police was also martyred and one was wounded in the several hours' fighting."

Three more Taliban were killed in neighboring Helmand province late Friday when a bomb they were planting in a road exploded, provincial spokesperson Muhaidin Khan told AFP.

The new violence came after the coalition announced late Friday that 45 Taliban were killed in strikes in Uruzgan province that fell under Operation Mountain Thrust, the biggest drive against the rebel movement since it was toppled in late 2001.

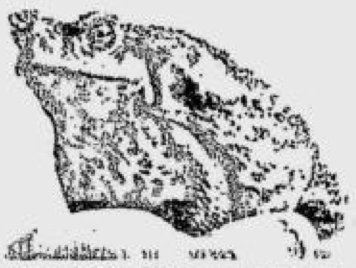
Coalition forces killed "an estimated 40 insurgents while they were meeting at a known enemy camp," in western Uruzgan, a statement said. *AFP*

BALI FESTIVAL
Balinese dancers perform during an art festival in Denpasar, June 1. The festival aims to increase tourism which has suffered since the two Bali bombings. AFP

Aussie Army called to fight toad invasion

SYDNEY—AN AUSTRALIAN STATE government called Sunday for the army to be deployed against an invasion of toxic toads.

Battalions of imported cane toads are marching relentlessly across northern Australia and the West Australian government wants soldiers to intercept the environmental barbarians.



THE POISONOUS cane toad which is capable of killing crocodiles. AFP

State Environment Minister Mark McGowan has written to Defense Minister Brendan Nelson asking permission to use soldiers based in the neighboring Northern Territory to kill the toads.

"The Army in the Northern Territory is greater than any other part of Australia," McGowan told national radio.

"We'd seek the Commonwealth (federal government) to help us in fighting this terrible threat to native fauna in Western Australia." *AFP*

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Burma's Suu Kyi faces another birthday alone

BANGKOK—BURMA'S DEMOCRACY icon Aung San Suu Kyi, who turns 61 on Monday, will spend another birthday alone, under house arrest imposed by a junta that has ignored an international outcry for her freedom.

The opposition leader and Nobel peace prize laureate, known to many of her followers simply as "The Lady," has spent more than 10 of the past 17 years under house arrest at her lakeside residence in central Rangoon.

Her only contact with the outside world has been a shortwave radio and a monthly visit from her doctor. She lives with two maids but is not allowed to receive guests, including her two adult sons.

Hopes for her release ran high after the isolated military regime allowed a top United Nations envoy to visit her on May 20—the first meeting between a foreigner and the prodemocracy leader in two years.

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan also urged junta leader General Than Shwe to free her.

Instead, the regime extended her house arrest by another year on May 27 and rebuffed an ensuing international uproar, calling her detention an internal matter.

SUU KYI in 1989 photo. AFP

The United States, a vocal critic of Burma, responded by saying it would pursue an unprecedented UN Security Council resolution to condemn the junta's repressive policies.

But despite rising international pressure on the country also known as Myanmar, isolated for its abuses against dissidents and ethnic minorities, analysts and diplomats say the regime is unlikely to set her free anytime soon.

"The government is afraid of Aung San Suu Kyi because she is still very popular among the people," a Rangoon-based diplomat said, asking not to be named. "If she goes free, she can quickly draw people and call for democracy."

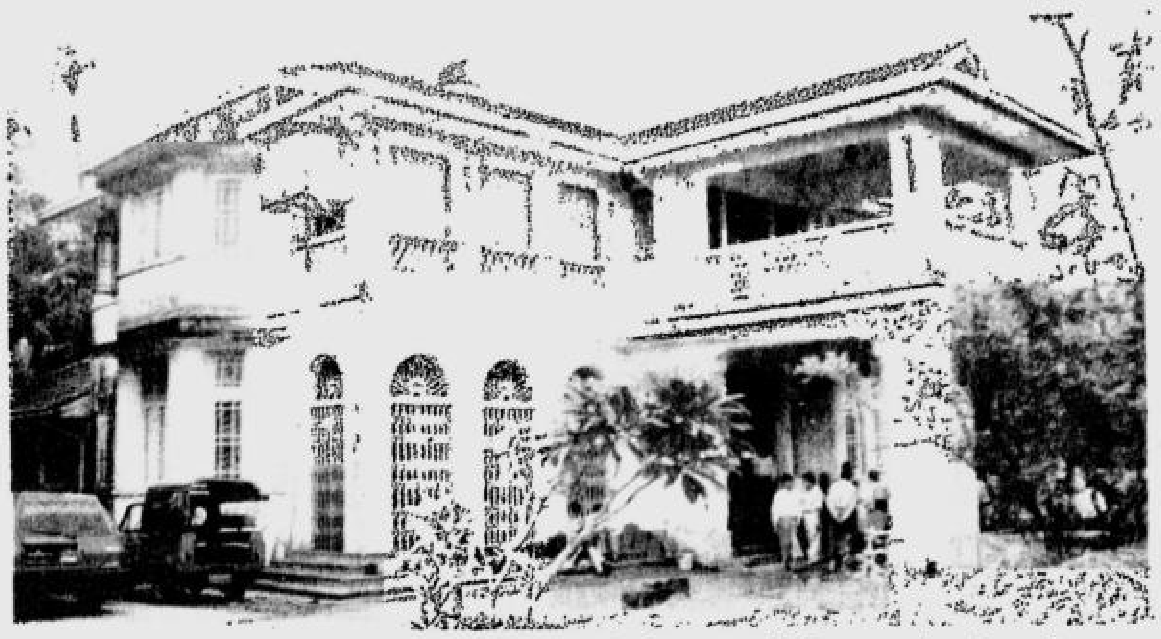
Soe Aung, a spokesperson for the Network for Democracy and Development, a Thai-based group of Burma's prodemocracy exiles, agreed.

"The government is afraid of her charisma," he said. "If she is freed, she will travel all over the country to demand democracy. The government cannot stop her."

Aung San Suu Kyi, the daughter of the country's independence leader General Aung San, studied and worked abroad, including for the United Nations, but returned to Burma in 1988 to care for her ailing mother.

That same year, mass prodemocracy rallies broke out but were quashed by the military. Aung San Suu Kyi co-founded the National League for Democracy (NLD) but was put under house arrest in 1989.

She refused an offer of freedom if she left the country for good.



PICTURE taken in 1990 shows the house on new University Avenue road in Rangoon where Burma's democracy icon Aung San Suu Kyi is spending her days under house arrest. Suu Kyi turns 61 on June 19. AFP

The NLD won 1990 elections by a landslide, but the regime ignored the result and clung to power. Aung San Suu Kyi, a devout Buddhist, was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize the following year for her nonviolent struggle.

Her most recent house arrest period began after her convoy was attacked by a junta-backed mob during a political tour of northern Burma on May 30, 2003. The attack left four people dead, and Aung San Suu Kyi was briefly jailed.

Win Min, a Thai-based Burmese analyst, said people would again follow Aung San Suu Kyi, whose father who was assassinated just months before independence from Britain in 1948. *AFP*

FIRST SATELLITE
The Russian Proton booster with "KazSat" telecoms satellite aboard blasts off at Cosmodrome Baikonur, June 18. Kazakhstan launched the satellite as a first step towards fulfilling its bid to join the elite club of space-exploring nations. AFP

Fear starts to lift after Nepal peace deal

BETAHANI, NEPAL—RAM KUMAR Jaisawal says the people of his tiny village on Nepal's baking southern plains would never have had the courage to speak out against Maoist rebels a few days ago.

But after a landmark peace deal between the government and rebels on Friday, the people of Maoist-dominated rural Nepal might gradually be finding their voices again.

Shortly after news of the deal filtered through, dozens of men and women gathered in a grove of mango trees in Betahani to protest against the Maoists and a commander who they say is intimidating them and extorting money.

"There is tremendous fear," said 50-year-old farmer Jaisawal. "But since there is some unity between the government and the Maoists, now we think we can speak to the party and be heard."

Under Friday's deal, the government agreed to dissolve parliament and invite the rebels to join an interim administration.

Elections will follow for a special assembly meant to draw up a new constitution and, the rebels hope, bring more than two centuries of monarchy to an end.

The peace process exploded into life when King Gyanendra surrendered power and reinstated parliament in April, after weeks of prodemocracy protests.

The new multiparty government quickly agreed a truce with the rebels, stripped the king of most powers and conceded to the Maoists' key demand—constituent assembly elections.

The peace deal was sealed at Friday's meeting between Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala and rebel chief Prachanda, making his first public appearance in the capital.

In Katmandu, many people gave the pact a guarded welcome, but seemed slightly uncomfortable with the pace of change.

"Cutting the king's power is a drastic move but whether it will succeed is only 50-50," said Dipendra Shahi, a 30-year-old airline company manager. "It is difficult to fulfill the Maoists' demands and I doubt there will be peace."

In the countryside, where the rebels hold sway and rule through the power of the gun, there was relief at the ceasefire agreement but suspicion of the Maoists' true intentions.

"When they hold meetings, they come with a big stick and say you must attend or pay us money," said a farmer from Ramawapur village on the fertile Terai plains, bordering India.

"When there is voting, people will vote for them out of fear." *Reuters*

China to teach Africans how to fight the desert

BEIJING—AFRICAN OFFICIALS and technicians will head to China in August to learn from the Asian giant's experience of fighting the desert, state media reported Sunday.

The visitors will spend their time mostly in Gansu, a province in China's isolated northwest that is at the forefront of the nation's battle to stem the encroaching desert, Xinhua news agency said.

"They will spend about 25 days in the field across Gansu and neighboring provinces and regions to learn how to choose plants for desert control and how to set up windbreaks," said Man Duoqing, a local desert control official.

The effort comes as China appears to be stepping up its ties with resource-rich Africa, reflected in an ongoing seven-nation tour of the continent by Premier Wen Jiabao.

Observers have said China is mostly interested in Africa because of its oil, while Beijing claims the exchanges are broader than that, and also include Chinese development aid to the impoverished continent.

Xinhua did not say what African countries the visitors would come from. It said officials from nations such as Angola, Egypt, Ghana and Tanzania had participated in similar programs in the past.

Deserts make up about 18 percent of China's total land area, but the government in Beijing insists it is slowly winning the war against the desert, saying it has had some success in reclaiming land for agriculture.

State media said in February that the nation had recorded an average net shrinkage of its deserts of 1,283 sq km per year since the beginning of the decade.

However, the current annual decline of desert area appears marginal against China's overall 1.74 million sq km of desert. *AFP*

INQUIRER TV GUIDE
Monday, June 19, 2006

Who will be next? Find out here on your Philippine Idol Network

American Idol
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ABC
Iba Tayo!

ClickTheCity.com

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABC 5				National Geographic	V League				Sentro	How Clean Is Your House	ABC Action Movies				Big News	Fear Factor		Totoo TV	
ABS-CBN 2	Kapamilya Cinema			Pasion de Amor	Little Amy	Mr Bean	Naruto	Calla Lily	TV Patrol World		Kapamilya Deal Or No Deal	Bituing Walang Ningning	Sa Piling Mo	My Girl	Wonderful Life	OK Fine! Whatever			Insider
AXN		Invincible				Ultimate Guinness World Records	E Buzz	Beastmaster (Season I)		Andromeda (Season V)		Sports Disaster		Numbers (Season 2)		Lost (Season II)		House	
Cartoon Network	Police Academy	Richie Rich	Tom & Jerry Show	Baby Looney Tunes	Hi Hi Puffy AmiYumi	The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy: Double Episodes		The Simpsons - Double Episodes		Power Rangers Ninja Storm	PokeMon	Dias	Gundam Seed Destiny	The Simpsons		Mucha Lucha!	Duck Dodgers	Justice League	Samurai Jack
Cinema One		[illegible] Tunsing Pugot				[illegible], The Reunion				Mahal Kita Kahit Sino Ka Pa				Nasaan Ka Man				Ping Lacson Story	
Cinemax		That Touch Of Mink (2:55 PM)			Delusion (4:40 PM)			Running Cool (6:15 PM)				Lone Star				Boiling Point (10:10PM)			Intolerable Cruelty
CNN		Business International		World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		Business International	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	World Sport	World News Asia	World News Asia	Your World Today			
Crime/Suspense		What Should You Do?		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Profiler		Forensic Files	Mastermind	Law & Order		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Crossing Jordan		Bones		Cold Case	
Discovery Channel				Monster Garage		Superweapons Of The Ancient World				Wild Discovery		Kings Of Construction		The Greatest Ever		I Shouldn't Be Alive		On The Run	
Disney Channel	Mr. Bean, The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/Un-Likeable Bunny	Mickey Mouseworks	Lilo & Stitch	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr. Bean, The Animated Series	That's So Raven	Wonderful World Of Disney			Black Hole High	Suite Life Of Zack And Cody	Kim Possible	Totally Spies	Wonderful World Of Disney	
ESPN		15th Sultan Azlan Shah Cup				'06 NBA Finals: Dallas vs Miami					Sportscenter Germany	Germany Tonight	U.S. Open Golf C'ship			Sportscenter Asia	U.S. Open Golf C'ship		
ETC	Friends 10	Beach Girls		Change of Heart	Elimidate	Blind Date	Film Wheel	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	The Tyra Banks Show		Project Runway		Queer Eye For The Straight Guy		America's Next Top Model 4		ET Weekend	
ETC 2nd Avenue		Starting Over		The Maury Povich Show		The Jerry Springer Show		Dr Phil		NBC Nightly News	The Inside Edition	The Ellen Show		Wheel Of Fortune	Jeopardy	The Biggest Loser		NBC Nightly News	The Inside Edition
EWTN	Benediction And Devotion	Chaplet Of Mercy/ Angelus	Bible Treasure Chest	Image Of God	Rosary With Mother Angelica	EWTN Gallery	G.K. Chesterton: The Apostle Of Common Sense II	Threshold Of Hope		Sunday Night Live With Fr. Benedict Groeschel		Daily Mass Live		Holy Land Rosary/ Angelus	Good Or Evil, Who Decides?	The Gospel Of John	Freedom & Authority	Catholic Compass	
Fox News		Beltway Boys	Fox News Watch	Bulls & Bears	Cavuto On Business	Forbes On Fox	Cashin' In	Fox & Friends						Fox News Live					
GMA 7	Agawin Mo Man Ang Lahat (2:45 PM)	Now and Forever (3:15 PM)	Endless Love 1: Autumn In My Heart & Popular Demand		Sayuki	Dragonball Z	Gokusen	24 Oras		Captain Barbell	Majika	I Luv NY	Love Of The Condor Heroes	Jewel In The Palace		Lagot Ka, Isusumbong Kita			Saksi
Hallmark Channel		Child Of Our Time (3:15 PM)		Straight From The Heart				Bewitched	The Nanny	Judging Amy		Sue Thomas: F.B. Eye		Judging Amy		Due East			Judging Amy (11:45PM)
HBO		Mask				Stepping Out			Harry Potter And The Prisoner Of Azkaban					Lorenzo's Oil				Spider-Man 2 (11:15PM)	
Hero TV	Yu-Gi-Oh Duel Monsters	Yakitate! Japan	Mr. Ajikko	D.I.C.E.	Super Gals	Gamburger	Gosaurer	Raijin Oh	Beyblade G-Revolution	Yu-Gi-Oh GX	Naruto	Mirmo de Pon	Inuyasha	Yu-Gi-Oh Duel Monsters	Yakitate! Japan	Mr Ajikko	D.I.C.E.	Super Gals	Gosaurer
IBC 13		EZ Shop				Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	Krusada Kontra Krimen		Japan Video Topics: Ama		ME TV		Travel Philippines	Japan Video Topics: Ama	Global Family Series	IBC News Tonite	Home Shopping Network	
JackTV		The Late Show With David Letterman		Bottomline		Afterburn		X-Men Evolution	Bust The Geeks	Mad TV		That 70s Show	Family Guy	The Late Show With David Letterman		Jack In The Box			
Lifestyle Network	Get Color	30 Minute Meals	Wolfgang Puck	Sweet Dreams	Smart Solutions	Sensible Chic	Dazzling Cakes	Barefoot Contessa	Everyday Italian	Food 911	E! Extra: High Price Of Fame 9 Tempted		NY Fashion Week	Martha		Radical Sabbatical	Genuine Article	Good Finds	Style Star
MTV Philippines		Wildboyz			MTV Hits (with [illegible])					Get Spotted				TRL		Wildboyz			
MYX		Rock MYX	My MYX	Mellow MYX	Urban MYX	Take 5	MYXLOG	MYX Finals	Star MYX	OPM MYX	Pop MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		Mobile MYX		Urban MYX	My MYX	MYX Backtrax	MYXLOG
National Geographic	Wildlife Diary	National Geographic Specials		Naked Science		The Living Edens		Top 5 - World Cup Crazy	Top 5 - Amazing Moments	Wild Zambezi Troop		About Asia		National Geographic Specials		Naked Science: Angry Earth		The Living Edens: Glacier Bay: Alaska's Wild Coast	
NBN		Teledyaryo Alas-Tres		Teledyaryo Sports Atbp			Diyos Ko, Mahal Ko Ba Siya?	Teledyaryo w/ Ely Saludar & Angelique Lazo		Teleng Bayan (Live)				Teledyaryo Final Edition		Dial M		Bantay OCW with Susan K	
Nickelodeon	Chalkzone	Hey Arnold!	SpongeBob SquarePants	Rocket Power	Four Eyes	SpongeBob SquarePants: Right On Top	My Life As A Teenage Robot	Nick Kicks		The Fairly Odd Parents	Drake & Josh	Unfabulous	Romeo!	Naturally Sadie	SpongeBob SquarePants	As Told By Ginger	The Fairly Odd Parents	My Dad The Rock Star	
PBO			Tunay Na Kaibigan, Walang Iwanan				Sumpaan				Jack and Jill				Biyaheng Langit				[illegible] Over The Green Fields
Qtv	Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin		Scrapped Princess	Kaleido Star	MMS (My Music Station)		Moms		Magic Ring	Irena	Noel	Project 11	H3O Hahaha Over			[illegible]		Irena	
RPN 9						Global Window	RPN [illegible] News	Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	Scare Tactics	NBA On RPN	Oras Ng Himala				Newswatch Now	Just For Laughs	Cargo For Truth	
SBN 21				New Life TV Shopping				Winner TV Shopping		Sony Music Video				Oras ng Kabataan		SBN Music Video			
Solar Sports				NBA Jam	Volleyball 2006 [illegible]				Sagupaan		2006 NBA Finals: Dallas vs Miami Games						Solar Sports Desk	World Tennis [illegible]	
Sports Plus				FIFA World Cup '06: Japan vs. Croatia						UFC Back2Back [illegible]				World Game		[illegible] Classic Highlights		Bank of America Colonial Highlights	
Star Movies			Trapped In Paradise				The Mighty Ducks			The Clown Payday				Lover Boy			Big (10:35PM)		
Star World		The Bold & The Beautiful		General Hospital		Ed		The Simpsons	Malcolm In The Middle	Star News Asia	Seinfeld	My Wife And Kids	Still Standing	Yes Dear	Frasier	[illegible] Dance Fever		Seinfeld	My Wife And Kids
Studio 23	Bewitched	YuGi-Oh 3 & 4				Batman Beyond	Dragon Booster	Sports	Pinoy Big Brother	Wazzup Wazzup	High School Reunion 2		Charmed (8:20PM)	Lost (9:10 PM)		News Central	Mas Match		Travel Time

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

Al-Qaida planned gas attack on NY subways

NEW YORK—US OFFICIALS RECEIVED intelligence that al-Qaida operatives had been 45 days from releasing a deadly gas into New York City subways when the plan was called off by Osama bin Laden's second-in-command in 2003, according to a book excerpt released Sunday on Time magazine's website.

According to the investigative report by Pulitzer-prize winning journalist Ron Suskind, an informant close to al-Qaida management told US officials that Ayman al-Zawahri canceled the plan in January 2003, despite the likelihood that the strike would have killed as many people as the Sept. 11 attacks.

The informant said that operatives had planned to use a small, easily concealed delivery system to release hydrogen cyanide into multiple subway cars. US officials had already discovered plans for the device in the computer of a Bahraini jihadist arrested in February 2003, and they had been able to construct a working model from the plans.

The easy-to-make device, called "the mubtakkar," meaning "invention" or "initiative," represented a breakthrough in weapons technology that "was the equivalent of splitting the atom," Suskind writes. All previous efforts to use the deadly gas, similar to that used in Holocaust-era gas chambers, in mass attacks had failed.

The FBI declined to confirm the details of Suskind's account. Agency spokesperson Bill Carter in Washington said Saturday that the bureau would have no comment on the excerpted material.

A New York Police Department spokesperson said authorities had known of the planned attack. "We were aware of the plot and took appropriate precaution," Paul Browne said Saturday.

New York City Metropolitan Transportation Authority spokesperson Tom Kelly declined comment.

According to the report, US President George W. Bush was shown a model of the weapon in March 2003 and ordered alerts sent through the US government. When intelligence arrived that al-Zawahri had called off the attack, Bush worried that something worse was in the works, Suskind writes.

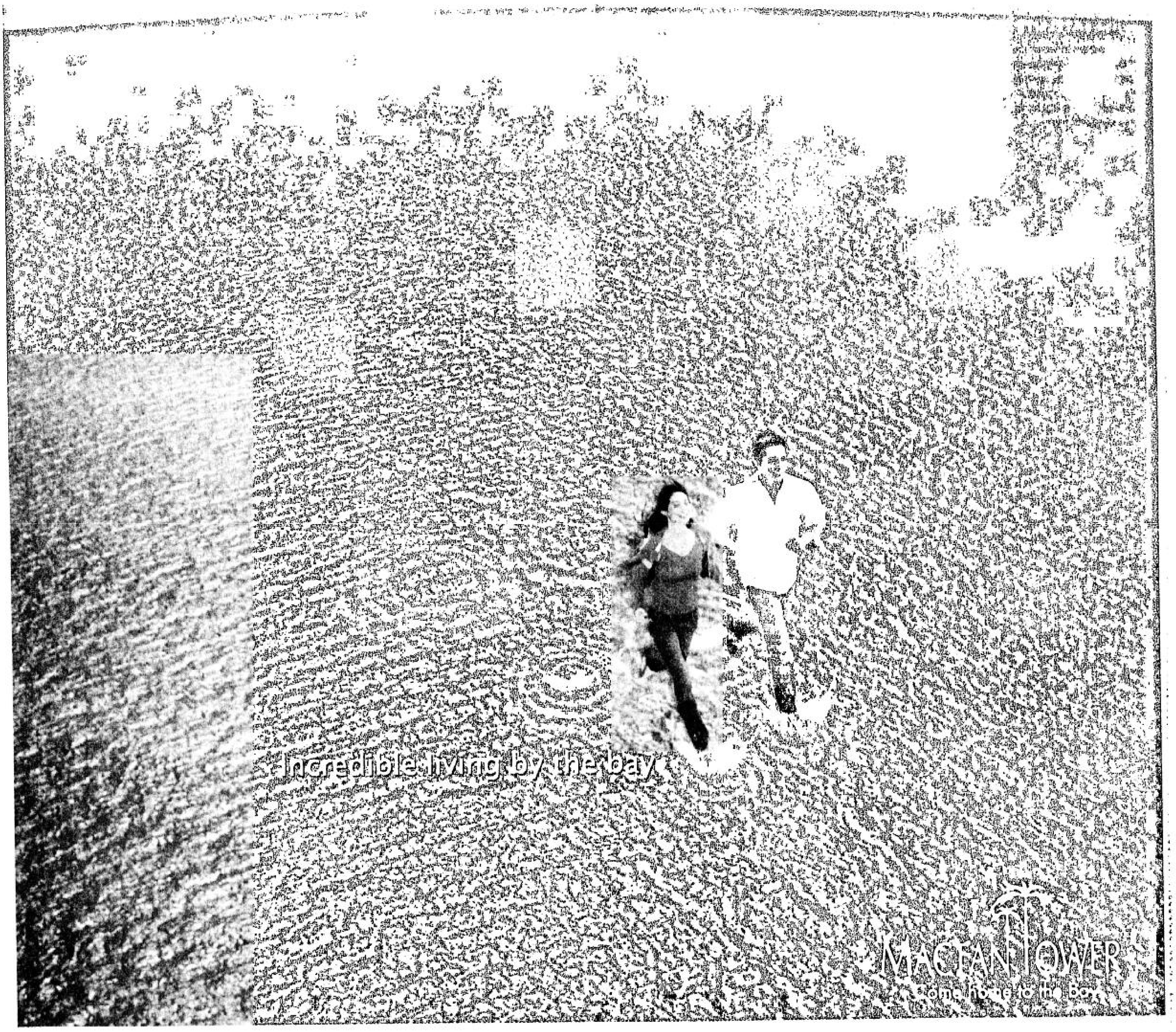
At least two of Suskind's sources remembered Bush saying, "This is bad enough. What does calling this off say about what else they're planning? ... What could be the bigger operation Zawahri didn't want to mess up?" the author said.

"What has been concluded for the most part is this: al-Qaida's thinking is that a second-wave attack should be more destructive and more disruptive than 9/11," Suskind told Time.

The informant, who had become disgruntled with al-Qaida's leadership, linked the organization's top agent on the Arabian peninsula to the attacks, Suskind writes. The man was later killed in a violent standoff with Saudi authorities.

The excerpt of Suskind's forthcoming book, "The One Percent Doctrine," was to appear in Monday's print edition of Time. Suskind is a former reporter for The Wall Street Journal. *AP*

POSTER GIRL Singapore's oldest orangutan living in captivity, Ah Meng, is seen during her 46th birthday celebration at the Singapore Zoo June 18. Ah Meng is Singapore zoo's most famous poster girl whose wrinkled face has sold Singapore worldwide. She has shaken hands and clinked glasses with foreign dignitaries and celebrities. AP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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Japan warns Nokor over launch

Says it will seek UN meet if Pyongyang test-fires missile

KINDERGARTNERS walk by displays of models of North Korea's Scud-B missile, center, and other South Korea missiles at the Korea War Memorial Museum in Seoul, June 16. AP

TOKYO — JAPAN WARNED North Korea on Sunday it would view any test-fired missile that landed on Japanese soil as an attack, after reports the secretive nation was preparing to jangle international nerves with a new missile launch.

Foreign Minister Taro Aso said Tokyo was ready to slap sanctions on the North, which surprised the world by firing a missile over Japan in 1998 without warning.

He also said any repeat launch would lead immediately to the UN Security Council.

"If they failed and the missile dropped on ... Japan, things would be complicated," Aso said on Japanese television. "It will be regarded as an attack."

Reports of the imminent test of a long-range missile with the range to hit parts of the United States have drawn stiff warnings from Washington as well as from Japan and South Korea.

Japan's Sankei Shimbun newspaper, citing unnamed Japanese government sources, said citizens of the Stalinist state had been advised to raise the national flag at 0500 GMT (1 p.m. in Manila) and watch a message on television.

But that time passed without word of any launch, and South Korea's Yonhap news agency cited an official as saying that a similar call to citizens was issued last year on June 18 as part of an unrelated domestic anniversary.

North Korea last year said it had nuclear weapons and since November has boycotted six-nation talks on its atomic drive, saying it will not come back to the bargaining table until the United States lifts sanctions on it.

"We will immediately appeal to the United Nations Security Council if North Korea test-fires a missile and threatens Japan's national security," Aso said.

"That's a matter of course—and the United States will support us."

Aso also said Tokyo was ready to impose economic sanctions against North Korea in retaliation. "We have already finished legal procedures to take action," he said. "The next step is to put that in motion."

Washington is a permanent Security Council member together with Britain, China, Russia and France, while Tokyo holds one of the nonpermanent, rotating seats on the 15-member council.

Thomas Schieffer, the US ambassador to Japan, said Saturday there were signs the North was preparing a missile launch and warned that such a move would be "grave and provocative."

But Schieffer declined to give a time-frame for a launch of a Taepodong-2 missile, which has a range of 3,500 to 6,000 km.

In South Korea, a defense ministry spokesperson declined to comment on any North Korean preparations but said his country's military alert level had not been changed.

"The military is on the same level of alert as usual. There has been no upgrade in the military alert yet," the spokesperson said.

In the six-nation talks—which group North and South Korea, China, Japan, Russia and the United States—the North had agreed to give up its nuclear program in exchange for aid and security guarantees. *AFP*

After 7 years of self-rule, Inuit still struggle

IQALUIT, NUNAVUT—THE INUIT OF THE Canadian Arctic have forsaken their sod houses and dog sleds for satellite television and snowmobiles in less than two generations. Assembling a smoothly functioning government and a solid educational system has been another matter entirely.

The initiative to grant Nunavut, a land of frozen fjords, desolate tundra, and roaming herds of caribou, self-rule seven years ago was heralded worldwide as an enlightened attempt to right past wrongs against a suffering aboriginal people.

But two recent federal government reports tell a disheartening story of frustrated hopes and local failures that do not bode well for Nunavut's exceptionally young population (38 percent of its people are under 14), one still plagued by widespread drug abuse, alcoholism, suicide, and family abuse.

One report found that only 25 percent of Inuit students graduate from high school. The lack of basic skills means that the territorial government has filled only 45 percent of its 3,200 public positions with Inuit, once known as Eskimos, although Inuit are 85 percent of the population. Meanwhile, unemployment for the territory is at 30 percent, with some communities suffering 70 percent unemployment.

"Nunavut faces a moment of change, a moment of crisis," wrote Thomas R. Berger, a former British Columbia Supreme Court judge, in his report to the federal minister of Indian affairs and northern development. Noting that 75 percent of Nunavut's 30,000 people speak Inuktitut as their first language while the principal language of the government remains English, Berger added, "the people of the new territory speak a language which is an impediment to obtaining employment in their own public service."

A second report by Sheila Fraser, the auditor general of Canada, disclosed widespread public financial mismanagement that was responsible for errors, bad decisions, waste, and fraud in the spending of nearly $1 billion in annual federal and other financing.

She noted that the territorial government's efforts to decentralize operations to spread public jobs beyond the capital, Iqaluit, had spread accounting talent too thinly. She recommended "recentralizing" government accounting operations so senior staff members could more closely supervise less experienced public workers. *NYT*

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Maging isa sa 3 winners ng P1 MILYON kapag nabuo ang mga letrang H-A-L-L-S!
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Miller leads Alaska Aces past Giants

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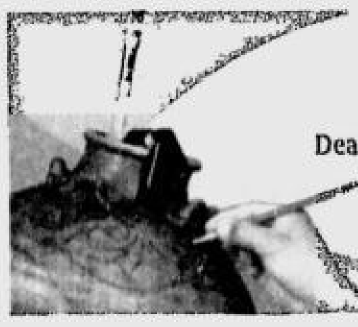

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Rivera nips Tee by four, puts away Masters title

By Marc Anthony Reyes

BIBOY RIVERA COUNTED ON HIS EXPERIENCE and steadier hands to survive a sudden-death duel against rising star Markwin Tee, 246-242, Sunday night and capture the men's Masters title of the 35th PBC-Boysen International Open Tenpin Bowling Championships at the Green Valley lanes.

The 32-year-old Rivera, the top seed in the stepladder finals after dominating the two qualifying blocks, needed all his guile to turn back the 22-year-old Tee, who arranged a final rolloff by winning their first meeting, 258-227.

RIVERA: Experience

"I was already toying with the idea that, yes, I can beat him," said Tee, who climbed to the championship duel after winning the second shoot-out of the stepladder finals over former RP team coach and American Purvis Granger and Frederick Ong.

"But he was also having very good lines, especially going into the last sudden-death game," added Tee, the Masters champion of last year's Southeast Asian Games.

Tee lost ground by missing the 5 and 4 pins in the third frame although Rivera, who enjoyed a twice-to-beat edge as top qualifier, had to keep his nerve in the homestretch to preserve the close victory.

"It was a satisfying win and I'm happy that Markwin also played a very good game which kept me on my toes all night," said Rivera, the national team captain, who also rolled a perfect game in the first block of the Masters qualifying.

The victory was worth P150,000 for Rivera, the 2004 Hong Kong International Open champion.

Tee, who got P75,000, said he is happy that "at least the title went to a fellow Filipino and a friend at that."

Top qualifier Korean Kang Hyun-jin had an easy time ruling the ladies' Masters, blasting compatriot Koo Hyun-kee, 279-210, in the finals.

Koo made it to the finals against the 22-year-old Kang, the 2004 Masters champ of the World Championships, who is ranked 16th in Asia, after nosing out fellow Korean Kim Soo-kyoung and Filipina Ces Yap in the second shoot-out match.

Koo earlier edged out Filipino teen campaigner Marjo Reyes and compatriot Koo in the initial shoot-out.

Ong beat lone Malaysian finalist Alex Liew and Korean Seo Jung-hwan in the first shoot-out to join Granger and Tee in the second shoot-out match.

Then Tee outscored Granger (224) and Ong (212) by toppling 253 pins to move up against Rivera.

ALASKA forwards Sonny Thoss (left) and Tony Dela Cruz paint a picture of synchronization as they go after a rebound.

AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Miller helps Aces trip Giants

GAMES WEDNESDAY (*Araneta Coliseum*)
4:40 p.m.—Red Bull vs San Miguel Beer
7:35 p.m.—Purefoods vs Alaska

By June Navarro

WILLIE MILLER'S PRIMARY TASK WAS TO BREAK the zone defense of the enemy.

The flamboyant slasher essayed his role to the hilt and did a little of every thing else as Alaska pulled off a 94-92 squeaker over Purefoods at the start of their Gran Matador Brandy PBA Philippine Cup semifinal duel last night at the Araneta Coliseum.

Miller tossed in 14 of his 21 points in the pivotal period, had a couple of important rebounds and issued five assists as the Aces overcame the high-scoring tandem of James Yap and Kerby Raymundo.

"He was awesome," said Alaska coach Tim Cone of Miller whose slash-and-drive moves loosened up the zone of the top defensive team in the league. "They have to figure a way to stop him."

In the second game, Red Bull also gained a step against San Miguel in their semifinal series with an 89-78 Game 1 triumph.

Mike Cortez also orchestrated the Alaska offense with efficiency, dishing off 21 points, seven rebounds and three assists while Sonny Thoss and Jeffrey Cariaso had 11 points each.

But the Aces were sloppy on the other side of the floor.

Yap erupted with 33 points, 23 of them in the final period, including the Giants' last 10 points. Raymundo, who had 19 points in the first half, got away with 25 points.

"Those two kids, they're really tough to match up with," said Cone. "Kerby destroyed us in the first half while James just took over and made life harder for us in the closing minutes."

Alaska had to score six of their last eight free throws to hold off the Giants, who had the winning three-pointer in their hands until Noy Castillo missed at the buzzer.

Game 2 of the best-of-seven semifinal series is on Wednesday.

"Winning Game 1 is a great opportunity to dictate the series but it doesn't guarantee a victory," said Cone.

Cone knows from experience that even if his Aces steal Game 2, coach Ryan Gregorio and the Giants are more than capable of coming back.

The Giants overcame a 0-2 best-of-seven series deficit against the Aces and captured the 2002 Governors Cup title.

The scores:

First Game

ALASKA 94—Cortez 21, Miller 21, Thoss 11, Cariaso 11, Ferriols 10, Dela Cruz 9, Hugnatan 8, Belasco 3, Wilson 0.

PUREFOODS 92—J. Yap 33, Raymundo 25, Ye 20, Pingris 12, Artadi 2, Simon 0, Limpot 0, R. Yap 0, Evangelista 0, Castillo 0.

Quarters: 29-21, 48-40, 64-60, 94-92

Second Game

RED BULL 89—Tugade 21, Robinson 16, Valenzuela 13, Villanueva 8, Pennisi 8, Cruz 6, Najorda 4, Fonacier 4, Alvarez 4, Bagulo 3, Hrabak 2, Bugia 1.

SAN MIGUEL 78—Seigle 34, Peña 16, Racela 8, Cablay 5, Calaguio 4, Lopez 3, Gonzales 3, Adriano 3, Hontiveros 2, Kong 0, Noble 0.

Quarters: 14-14, 36-35, 65-55, 89-78

Fierce college foes keep PBL champs afloat

By Jasmine W. Payo

HARBOUR CENTRE COACH JORGE GALLENT HAD doubts early in the conference, and even toyed with the idea of leaving the team.

"When we started with a 2-6 record (in the elimination), I was frustrated," said Gallent. "I thought about resigning, but I never told [the team]."

It wasn't only Gallent who admitted to almost giving up on his crew. Even his young stars predicted a dismal finish in the PBL Unity Cup.

"It looked impossible when we were at 2-6," said hotshot guard Joseph Yeo

"I never thought we'd reach the Finals," added top playmaker LA Tenorio. "I already had plans to go on vacation with my friends. But the team peaked at the right time, we blended well. It was good timing."

Indeed, no one expected the turnaround. Scrambling to place sixth in the eliminations, the young squad just barely made it to the playoffs.

Then the Portmasters started to whip the league heavyweights in games where they had been counted out even before the opening toss.

Ranged against top-ranked Toyota Otis in the Finals, Yeo and Tenorio fueled the Portmasters' charge that rewarded Harbour Centre with the championship in a best-of-five series that reached full distance.

"When we beat Granny Goose twice (in the quarterfinals), that's when I thought that we could do it," said Gallent.

The consistently superb Tenorio averaged 15.2 points, 3.8 rebounds and 3.2 assists to clinch the Finals Most Valuable Player plum.

Yeo secured the Pivotal Player award after unleashing 21 of his 28 points from beyond the arc to lead the Portmasters to a 73-66 victory in Game 5 last Saturday.

But the teamwork of the two former fiercest rivals in collegiate hoops turned out to be even more impressive than their individual performances.

"These two are my heroes," said team owner Mikee Romero. "LA Tenorio of Ateneo, Joseph Yeo of La Salle. Who would have thought that we'd be able to bring them together? Who would have thought that they could win a championship together in a different kind of league? They showed they're the top amateur players right now."

Olivarez gains Copa de Manila net finals

TOP SEED SHANNIN OLIVAREZ overpowered fourth seed Tamitha Nguyen, 6-3, 6-2, yesterday to barge into the girls' 12-under finals of the 7th Copa de Manila Age-Group Tennis Championships at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

Olivarez, an incoming Grade 7 student at the Brent International School in Biñan, Laguna, will meet the winner between second seed Patricia Orteza and No. 3 Jasmine Tan Ho in the finals on June 24.

It will be the second straight final appearance for Olivarez, who won the Olivarez Cup two weeks ago. The 12-year-old also won the Andrada Cup in January and the Philta Classic-San Pablo Cup last month.

Meanwhile, unseeded Pocholo Macalino stunned fourth seed Enrique Ferrer, 6-3, 6-0, to advance to the boys' 12-under finals against Jurence Mendoza, a 6-0, 6-2 winner over No. 5 Thomas Nguyen.

In the boys' 14-under, fourth seed Jose Lorenzo Ferrer ousted No. 1 Akio Sy, 6-3, 7-5, (10-8), to advance to the finals against No. 3 Kim Ivor Saraza, who scored a 7-6 (1), 6-3 win over second seed Kyle Cordero.

Fourth seed Joachim Samson stunned No. 1 Mark Escares, 4-6, 7-5, (10-7), to forge a title showdown with unranked Jurence Mendoza for the unisex 10-under class.

Booking semifinal berths in the boys' 16-under were Saraza, Mark Daniel Bautista, Jose Lorenzo Opulencia and Ernesto Pantua III.

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Pacquiao: Geography of pain

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

AN excerpt from Pacific Storm, a work in progress:

PACQUIAO HAD ORIGINALLY PLANNED to dig in and pummel Morales' body starting in the eighth round of the rematch.

That bitter offensive however had to be launched ahead after Pacquiao landed a big left punch to the rib cage of the Mexican midway in the sixth round. Morales, hit hard close to the end of this round, was saved from falling after he was accidentally cradled by the referee when the bell sounded.

"I felt something inside there crack (*'Parang me nabali'*)," Pacquiao recalled.

Morales did not just sink and give up after taking more blows to the body in the succeeding rounds.

While a knockout, described by Norman Mailer as the failure of communication between the mind and the body, usually comes in a snap, the disintegration and eventual stoppage of Morales came in slow, painful installment.

Pacquiao himself did not jump in like a raging bull to complete the execution.

The knockout came close to the end of the 10th round but, contrary to what had been prescribed, the fall of the Mexican did not result from a cut in link between mind and body.

Morales fell because he failed to stoically stand up to pain.

No, this should not mean Morales had suffered from lack of courage.

He was brave enough to take the brick-hard shots, but not steady enough to survive the supreme test.

The bitter defeat, despite the slow impact, must've felt like death.

If not, why would Morales swear much later, after the third fight against Pacquiao was announced, that he would be willing to die just to get back at the gallant Filipino warrior?

It was a matter of pride among Mexicans, a tested, battle-scarred people so enamored with their heroes, like revolutionary Emiliano Zapata who continued to be revered as deathless and unconquerable -"Can you kill the mountain? Can you kill the river? Can you kill the wind? Can you kill the stars?"

Morales aches to redeem his character.

Unfortunately, he will have to search hard for a school somewhere among poor kids exposed to undefinable hunger in all their waking hours.

This is the same school where Pacquiao had learned to roll with the punches, rise from a series of falls and stay on his feet through thick and thin, where he was exposed to the killing tests of character that brought out the so-called fire in the belly.

There's also this story of how Pacquiao, in his early fights in Manila, would go without food, very thirsty, after heavy workouts in the gym. One keen-eyed broadcaster swears Pacquiao, despite his aching, empty stomach, would not be caught tagging along or hanging around when friends or teammates moved out to eat.

Not a coin in his pocket, but Pacquiao strictly stuck to himself, staying away lest somebody took pity and offered to buy him a free snack. He would not squander his quiet dignity. He would not allow people to label him what's called in the vernacular a *"patay gutom"* or shameless parasite.

That early, Pacquiao was keenly charting the geography of pain, perfecting a nameless antidote to the disease called a slow knockout.

Bacolod secures World Series stint

BACOLOD CITY STRUGGLED all day before scrambling past Guam, 4-1, yesterday to top the 14-16 division in girls' softball at the Rosario Sports Arena in Pasig City and preserve its place in the Senior League World Series in the United States.

Stunned by a 2-3 loss to Indonesia earlier in the day, the Bacolod senior leaguers needed five complete innings to shake off the Guamanians' gallant stand. They earned the trip to Lower Sussex, Delaware, for the world championship in their division slated Aug. 6-12.

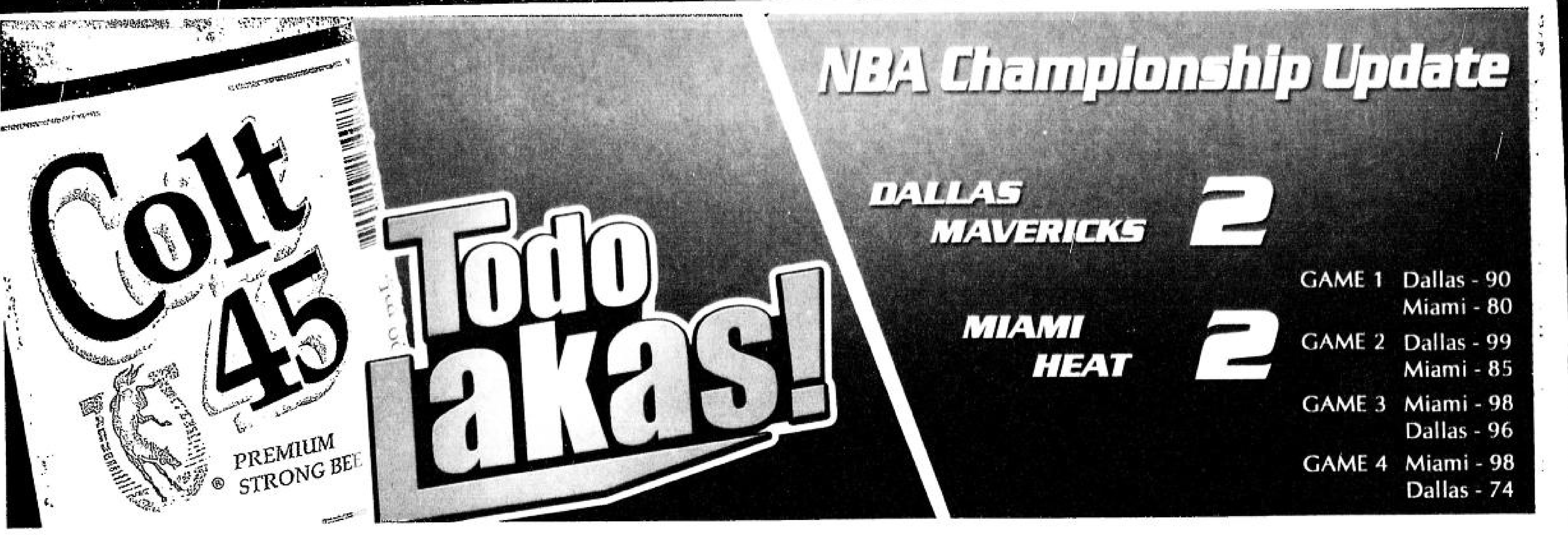
Pitcher Vicky Rose Belleza belted a two-run inside-the-park home run in the seventh inning to finally turn back the Guamanians, who were cheered by the Indonesians wildly throughout the classic two-hour duel.

A win would have given Guam the right to represent Asia Pacific in Delaware and end the Bacolod girls' three-year regional dominance of the division that started in 2004.

The Indonesians, nevertheless, will go home happy after scoring their first win ever in the Asia Pacific elimination since softball was introduced to the Little League International program in 1994.

Belleza also shone at the mound, striking out 15 of the 23 batters she faced and issuing only two hits in a no-relief job over seven innings.

Guam centerfielder Meilani Quaintanilla scored the lone run for the Guamanians in the bottom of the first inning after an error by Bacolod catcher Elvie Entrina.



NBA Championship Update

DALLAS MAVERICKS	2
MIAMI HEAT	2

GAME 1	Dallas - 90 Miami - 80
GAME 2	Dallas - 99 Miami - 85
GAME 3	Miami - 98 Dallas - 96
GAME 4	Miami - 98 Dallas - 74

Special Edition tops Ongpin Cup

SPECIAL Edition, with Dominador Borbe Jr. on top, crosses the finish the clear victor. RYAN LIM

Don Exquiel's Triple Crown bid goes pffft

By Musong R. Castillo

HOT FIRST PICK SPECIAL EDITION CAME charging back from dead-last at dusk yesterday to rule the second leg of the 2006 Triple Crown series—the J.V Ongpin Cup—in overpowering style at the Santa Ana Park in Makati.

Dominador Borbe worked the slow-starting Special Edition furiously early in the 1,800-meter race, getting the kick he wanted in the mid-backstretch to win by almost six lengths over Jet Sutter and prevent a TC sweep.

Don Exequiel, the first leg winner from the powerful stable of Hermie Esguerra, did not get to run his pace with Ronaldo Baldonido aboard and wound up fourth.

Handled by Jonathan B. Hernandez, Million Dollar paid dearly for hounding Don Exequiel early and finished sixth in the nine-horse field.

"The distance of the race, and how the speedballs battled for the lead, suited my mount well," Borbe, who celebrated his birthday yesterday, told the INQUIRER in Filipino. "She was due for a win, after that close shave in the first leg."

Special Edition, who won for the eighth time in 11 starts, clocked a respectable one-minute and 54.4 seconds (13', 22, 25, 25', 28') over a hard track. It was less than two seconds off the 1:52.6 set by super import Wild Orchid last year.

Special Edition, the last to leave the gates, trailed the eighth placer by two lengths after the field passed the judges' stands for the first time.

But Borbe punished the daughter of Conquistarose out of Gold Edition with the whip, and Special Edition responded, moving to fourth with ease when the field neared the far turn.

Owned and trained by Valentin Cayco, Special Edition—which drew P475,843 out of the total sales of P1,106,864—was three lengths ahead when the field rounded the final bend.

Jet Sutter, under Manolito Daquis, went on to nip Val Dilema and Dixie The Younger for third.

The win was worth P1.2 million for Special Edition's handlers, while Jet Sutter won P450,000 for Raymund Puyat, whose longshot entry, True Account under Jesse B. Guce, won the PCSO Special Maiden race earlier for P300,000.

Lancia Stratos, a juvenile filly ridden by Antonio Alcasid Jr., checked in second behind True Account some two lengths back for P100,000.

After Don Exequiel came Batong Silyar, Million Dollar, Tigres in Action, Mr. Victory and series newcomer Hard To Find.

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Perpetual puzzle

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

ISN'T IT ODD THAT THE BASKETBALL Association of the Philippines is recognized by the international basketball federation (Fiba) but not by its mother association, the Philippine Olympic Committee?

The BAP was expelled last year, June 30, 2005 to be exact, by an overwhelming majority of the members of the POC general assembly for "reneging" on a resolution which basketball officials themselves signed, expressing "full cooperation to the POC" on the formation of a strong, well-trained and competitive national teams to international competitions. This same set of officials later did a turnaround by passing another resolution stating that the BAP is forming its own national team, totally disregarding its commitment to the POC.

After the expulsion of the BAP, a longtime Fiba member, the POC bestowed recognition on the newly organized Pilipinas Basketball formed by stakeholders from the PBA, PBL, UAAP and NCAA. Former Sen. Joey Lina of the BAP was an original member of the group but later withdrew mainly due to the use of the new name for the association. As a result of the expulsion, Fiba suspended the Philippines from all international events under its aegis, saying that it could not accept the POC decision to expel one group in favor of another. Fiba added that the POC should have given BAP president (Joey) Lina more time to effect changes in the beleaguered association after taking over from an ailing Tiny Literal only some months back.

On the BAP's expulsion, Lina said with a deep sigh that he tried his best to save the situation, but his efforts were in vain. "For the mistakes of some, (he had admitted that the BAP was "mismanaged" by his embattled secretary general Graham Lim, who is facing deportation), the entire institution is banished."

Because of the Fiba ban, the Philippines was unable to take part in three international tournaments last year, including the Asian Basketball Confederation championship and the Southeast Asian Games where the country has been the perennial champion since 1987.

A solution is unlikely at this point since both Lina and POC president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco continue to disagree, not wanting to budge an inch from their respective positions. The only bright note, a breakthrough of sort, was the recent one-on-one meeting between athletics president Go Teng Kok (a special assistant to the POC president) and Graham Lim. Even though nothing was made public (off the record, both had requested me), I still felt optimistic that something good would be achieved pretty soon mainly because the lines of communications have been opened.

However, I am appealing to both camps not to be too technical when they sit down again and, for their respective lawyers, to apply common sense in solving basketball's perpetual puzzle.

* * *

What can we expect in the 2006 PBA All-Filipino semis which got going yesterday? I say, once a team makes the semis, anything can happen. It will be a wide-open race, a tight and interesting best-of-seven series pitting top seed Purefoods against No. 4 Alaska and second seed San Miguel Beer against No. 3 team Red Bull.

Just like Red Bull (which lost twice to San Miguel Beer in the classification round), Alaska will try to bounce back from two setbacks it suffered at the hands of Purefoods this season. Only this time, the odds somewhat evened up for coach Tim Cone after Alaska acquired former MVP Willie Miller and go-for-broke John Ferriols.

Still, Purefoods mentor Ryan Gregorio is ready to do battle. "Kerby (Raymundo), Jun (Limpot) and Noy (Castillo) are back in form and ready to play again."

I expect another epic series between perennial rivals San Miguel Beer, coached by multi-titled Jong Uichico and Red Bull, mentored by innovative Yeng Guiao. In 2001, the two teams clashed in a box-office record-breaking title series which Red Bull won, 4-2, to capture its first ever PBA championship after only six conferences. But in this conference Red Bull lost two times to SMB,

Man-for-man, the two teams are about even. San Miguel will bank on old reliables Danny Seigle and Danny Ildefonso, defensive gem Dorian Peña, deadly gunners Olsen Racela, Dondon Hontiveros, Cris Calaguio and Brandon Cablay. Red Bull, on the other hand, will depend on MVP Rico Villanueva, sweet-shooting Lordy Tugade, Mick Pennisi, slamdunk champion Cyrus Baguio, Junthy Valenzuela, vastly improved Larry Fonacier, Paolo Bugia, Leo Najorda, fleet-footed Topex Robinson and Celino Cruz.

After a long layoff and reported injuries to their top players, the Beermen may find the sailing rough. Two-time MVP Danny Ildefonso is hurting after he sprained his left ankle during a tuneup match recently while Danny Seigle is suffering from back spasms.

DAVE Jota (car on the right) of Blanche Racing proves too fast in his final face-off with Marvin Suzara of Team Ere for the Quick 8 title in the 2006 Red Horse National Drag Racing Championship at the BRC drag strip.

Jota, Uy keeps Blanche Racing banner flying

ROSARIO, BATANGAS—DAVE JOTA and Jose Uy captured two of four titles for Blanche Racing yesterday in the 2006 Red Horse National Drag Racing Championship at the Batangas Racing Circuit Drag Strip here.

Jota bagged his second win since ruling the kickoff leg last April as he clocked 11.624 seconds to prevail in the premiere Quick 8 division over Marvin Suzara of rival Team Ere.

Uy won over teammate Jayson Ong to claim the Pro class crown with a time of 11.993 seconds.

Team Ere top driver Jonathan Tiu also grabbed a piece of the limelight as he set a new track record of 11.092 seconds, shattering his own previous time of 11.309.

Driving a Mitsubishi Evo5, Tiu smashed his record in his first run by clocking 11.253 before coming close to breaking the 11-second barrier in his second qualifying run.

Winning the other titles were Herbert Gutierrez of Just Racing and Mark Shwab of Team Ready.

Gutierrez outlasted Joseph Corbillion of MohSpeed to claim the Sportsman title in 15.252 seconds.

Schwab posted 17.835 seconds against Jeanette Go of Team Ere to seize the Hot Street title.

Among the other winners were Nelson Wong of Just Racing Team who submitted a time of 14.127 to rule the All-Yokohama class over Danes Sarmiento of Pit 21; Jaybee Alinea who prevailed over teammate Von Bringas, clocking 14.690 for the All-Motor crown; and Orthodox Racing's Roy Peter Concepcion who won the All-Honda division over Alinea.

Steady Bondoc snares Samsung Davao leg by 1

DAVAO—GENE BONDOC SALVAGED AN EVEN-par 72 and escaped with a one-shot victory yesterday over the rallying Ferdie Aunzo and Mike Bibat in the Samsung Amateur Tour at the Rancho Palos Verdes Golf and Country Club course.

The 23-year-old Bondoc, who moved into contention after the third round, chipped in for birdie from 20 yards on the 15th hole, then buried an eight-foot par-saver on the 17th to secure his first big victory since 2003 with a 284 total.

Aunzo, who shared the lead with Jay Bayron after 36 holes, missed a six-footer for par on the last hole for a four-under 68, while Bibat seemed on his way to victory only to collapse with a bogey-bogey finish that rounded out a 70.

Aunzo and Bibat wound up tied at 285 in this third leg of a nationwide elimination series that will culminate in a national grand finals at Mt. Malarayat this November.

Bayron, who either held or tied for the lead in the first three rounds, shot a 78 and crashed into a tie for fourth with Mark Fernando (75) at 288.

Bayron also lost to Marvin Dumandan in a three-hole playoff during the Baguio stop recently.

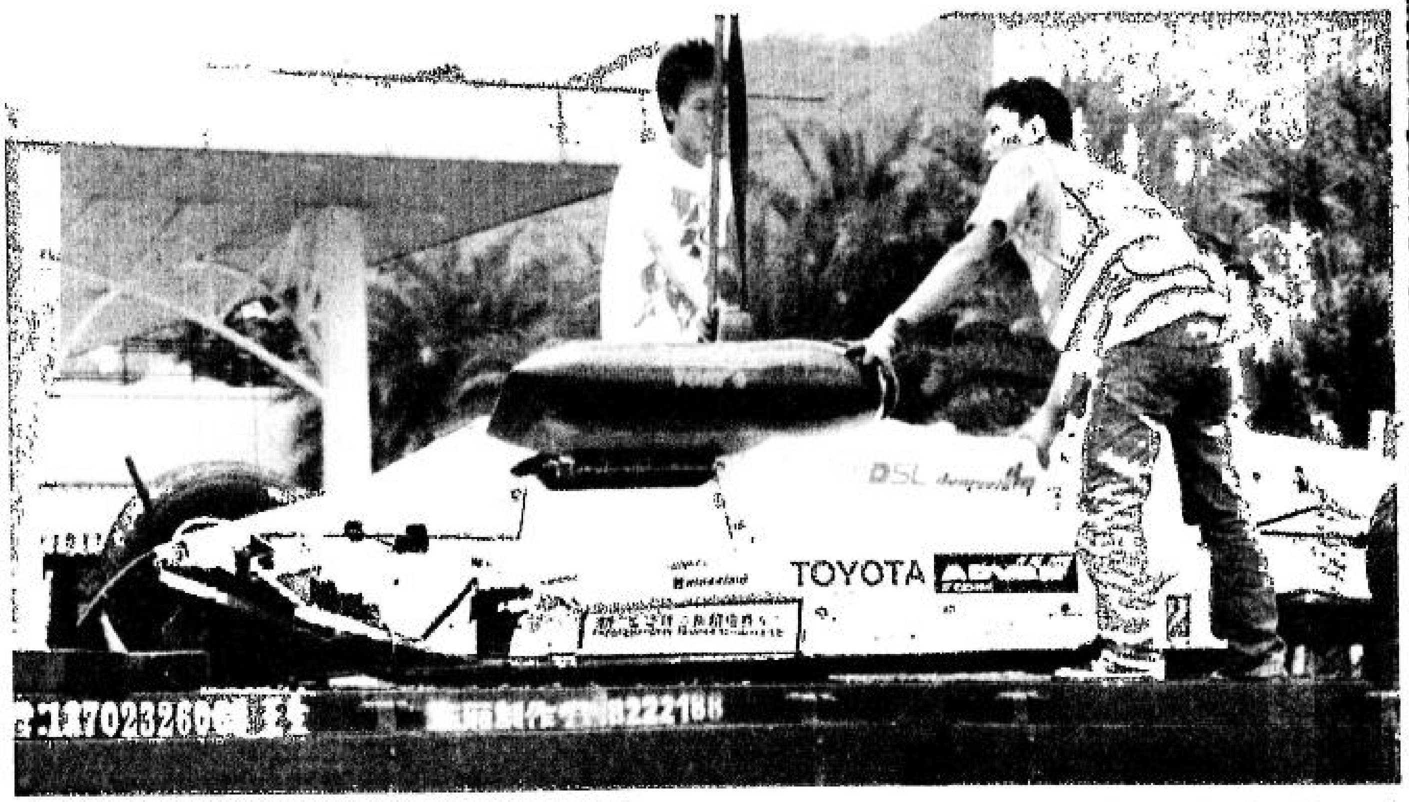
Boosted by a hole-in-one and a course-record 64 in the first round, Bayron held a two-stroke overnight lead over ICSTI teammate Bondoc.

Art Ong topped Class A while Ronald Galicia won Class B of the event also sponsored by Taylor Made, C-Lium Fibre, Microtel, Titleist, Custom Clubmakers/KZG, Sunbolt. Media partners were Jam 88.3, Wave 89.1, Magic 89.9 and 99.5 RT. Solar Sports Plus.

"It's been a while," said Bondoc, a member of the gold medal-winning SEA Games team last year. "I really didn't know what was happening to Jay and Ferdie until I was signing my scorecard."

Bondoc's last win came in the same Samsung series during the Eastridge leg three years ago.

Ong carded a 76-157, then beat Kim Wong Jong in a playoff while Galicia had 85-166 to edge Antonio Perales (85-167).



TRACK personnel at the Zhuhai International Circuit load Tyson Sy's badly damaged car onto a flatbed truck after the fifth round mishap. The Filipino ace escaped unhurt but is a doubtful starter in today's Asian Formula Three sixth round.

SSC spikers eye title slot vs Lyceum

STANDINGS	W	L
La Salle	11	1
S. Sebastian	8	4
Adamson	7	4
FEU	5	7
Lyceum	5	7

GAMES TODAY
(*Blue Eagle Gym*)
12 noon—Lyceum vs. San Sebastian
2 p.m.—Far Eastern vs. Adamson

SAN SEBASTIAN guns for at least a playoff for the second championship slot against Lyceum, while Adamson resumes its own title bid against Far Eastern today in the Shakey's V-League semifinals at the Blue Eagle Gym.

A win by the Lady Stags will give them a crack at the second finals berth through the five-of-eight semifinal incentive. They have yet to lose in their last four games and will be going into the match fresh off a rousing upset of early finalist La Salle last Saturday.

The Lady Stags are expected to breeze past the Lady Pirates, especially if Thai reinforcement Jaroensri Bualee continues to spew fire and get a lot of support from the local lineup. They are running second with an 8-4 record.

Bualee scored 31 points as San Sebastian repulsed La Salle, 25-13-21, 17-25, 25-18, 34-32. But Lyceum is coming off a 25-17, 25-21, 25-19 victory that eliminated Far Eastern also last Saturday.

Adamson, holding a 7-4 card, needs to win twice in the semifinals to avail of the package, but that might not come easy against FEU.

The Lady Tams are expected to give the Lady Falcons the same treatment they received from the Lady Pirates.

Cherry Rose Macatangay will be at the front and center of Adamson's offense, with the Lady Falcons also expected to get help from Sang Laguilles and libero Nang Adajar.

Marc Anthony Reyes

SPORTSWATCH

Ampil Bros., Baccud rule World Slasher Cup 8-cocker

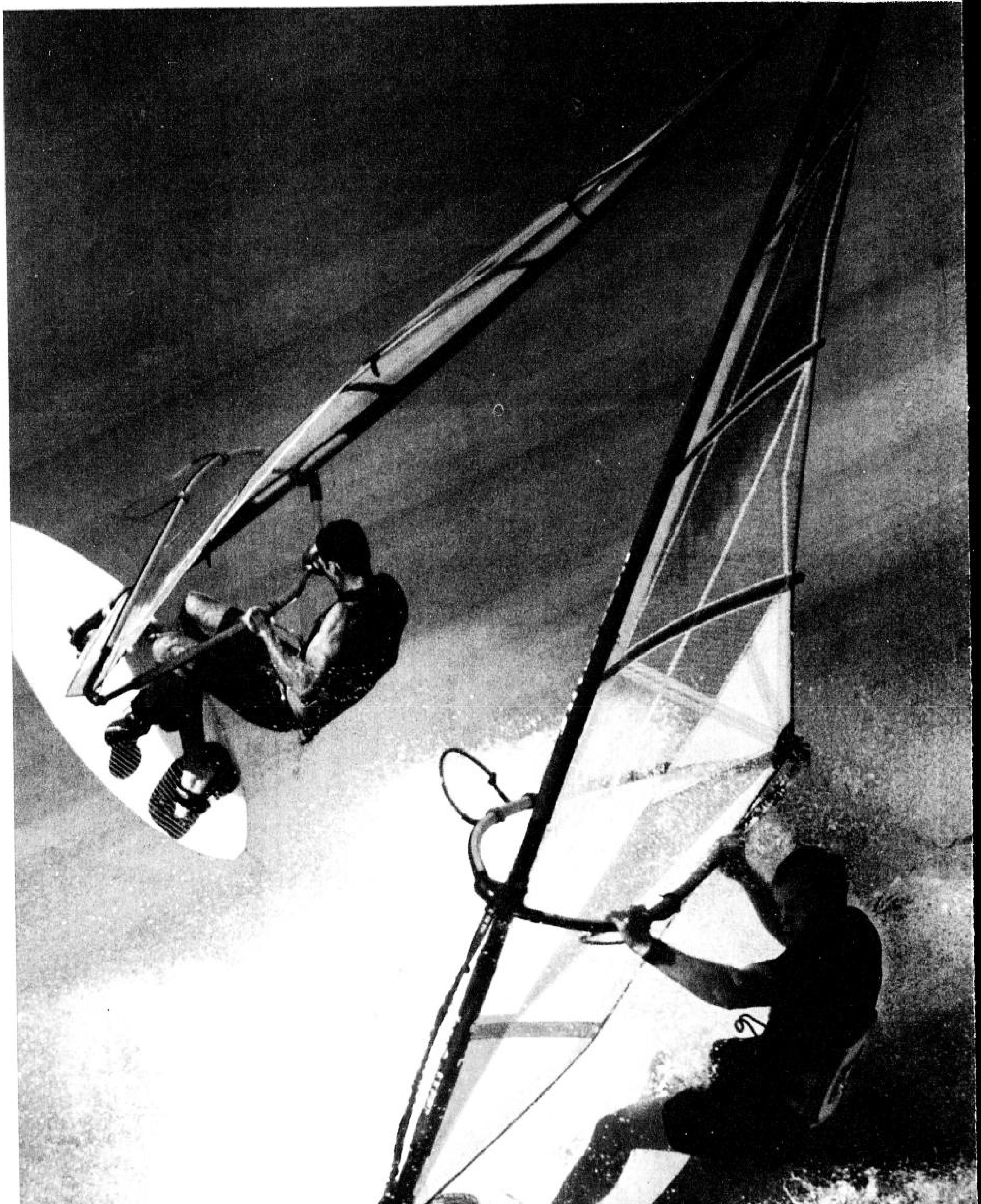
AMPIL BROTHERS CHOI, JOSEPH AND GERARD OF Negros Occidental and Rizal partnered with Cagayan's Elmer Baccud to bag the 2006 World Slasher Cup II 8-Cock Invitational Derby with 7.5 points via their entry EYB A/R Assault II recently. Sharing runner-up honors with 7 points apiece in the derby sponsored by Thunderbird Platinum are the LCC entry of Boy Lechon and Louie Cua and Partners Balani Winslet of Dicky Lim of Palawan. Lim's other entry, Snow White Winslet, settled for third place with 6 points in a tie with Blue Blade Blake of Sonny Lagon, MTJ Bros. II of Marcel Julao, BM-Kabu-JP-I of Boy Marzo, M. Taniguchi and Jezry Palmares, Binangonan West Covina of Bert Estacio, Pichay RB Spartans II of Rey Briones and Rep. Prospero Pichay and Sagupaan Hi-Action of Patrick Antonio. Lim is an endorser of Thunderbird Multi-Grain Conditioner. Lagon's 9-second triumph over the entry MTJ Bros. I in last Thursday's semifinals remained as the fastest win of the derby.

70 tiffs today in PCAP derby

COCKFIGHT BUFFS CONVERGE AT THE MAKATI Coliseum today as the Pinoy Cockers Association of the Philippines (PCAP) 5-cock derby series resumes at 5 p.m. with 70 fights on tap. Sponsor is B-Meg Derby Ace. Two more PCAP derbies will be held to finally determine the Cocker of the Year winner. The PCAP Championship 8-cock derby is set on June 26 and 28. The leading contenders are boxing hero Manny Pacquiao and Amor Salvanera (Super Pacman), Butchoy Olano (Ika Mae), Jake Macasaet (San Vicente Ferrer), Richard Bates and Col. Nicetas Katigbak (Victoria Peak), Lito Orillaza (Golden Syca), Efren Canlas (Bacolor Gold), William Co (Spencer), Edmund Yasay (Rooster Wild), among others. Meanwhile, the WTJ 3-cock derby follows immediately on Wednesday. Entry fee is P5,500. For inquires, call 896-3545 or 895-6475.

'Hatawan' derby all set

A PRIZE POT OF P3.5 MILLION IS UP FOR GRABS in the "Hatawan Sa Tag-Ulan" 6-cock derby on July 1, 4, 6, 8 and 11 at the Roligon Mega Cockpit. Host Rolly Ligon said a brand new Honda Civic will be awarded to the fastest win champion of the super cockfest. Entry fee is P8,800. Meanwhile, the Sentenciador 3-Cock Derby is set at the same venue this Saturday with P250,000 at stake. Derby hosts are cockfight referees JR Rico and Willy T. For inquiries, call Shirley or Jonna at 851-2275, 833-1638 or 852-9812.



Governme
Cigarette smoking is d

Sy crashes in rain; Jackson wins

GUANGDONG—HEAVY RAINS THAT left visibility to a minimum led to a crash that cost Tyson Sy his bid for a second-place finish, even as Irishman Ali Jackson scored a breakthrough victory Sunday in the accident-marred fifth round of the Asian Formula Three Series at the Zhuhai Circuit here.

Jackson started No. 3 on the grid, grabbed the lead right in the first lap and, thriving in wet conditions that bedeviled most of the other drivers, zoomed to victory for Aran Racing.

The 17-year-old newcomer was on the way to victory in the fourth round Saturday until his car got slowed down by faulty electrical wiring.

But the story of the day involved Sy, the 18-year-old Filipino star of Speedtech Asia, and Briton Dillon Battistini, 28, of JA Motorsport, whose heated battle for second place in slippery conditions led to a sickening crash in full view of the grandstand gallery.

The accident also involved the car of Sy's teammate, Gaby dela Merced, who had pulled up in the seventh lap on the right side of the grandstand due to gear problems.

While Jackson was cruising trouble-free in a double-yellow flag situation—in which no passing is allowed—Sy bore down on the right side of Battistini entering the long straightaway of the 4.3-kilometer track. The Filipino apparently anticipated the green flag to be waved just before the first corner.

But Battistini refused to give ground and drifted to the right, forcing Sy to go wide only to see Dela Merced's stalled car blocking his way.

Fortunately for Sy, he managed to swerve to the left seconds before impact. But, to everyone's horror, the right rear side of his car slammed into Dela Merced's.

Sy's car flew into air, preceding his right wheel, and debris flew all over the track.

Asian F-3 Series
5th Round Results
Zhuhai International Circuit, China

DRIVERS	COUNTRY	TIME
1. Ali Jackson	Ireland	14:32.428
2. Dillon Battistini	England	14:38.126
3. Tyson Sy	Philippines	14:38.320
4. Dado Pena	Philippines	14:41.169
5. Moreno Soeprapto	Indonesia	14:47.037

When Sy's car slammed back in the ground, he careened into the cement barrier at the pit gate and bounced back out. Sy suffered from a whiplash but was generally unhurt.

"The back of my neck hurts," said Sy, who was immediately taken to the nearby clinic.

It was unclear whether he and Dela Merced could race in the sixth round of the race backed by Yokohama and PLDT.

The drive shaft of Sy's car injured an unidentified male spectator, who suffered a broken right leg.

The race was red-flagged after the incident and Jackson declared the winner with a time of 14 minutes, 32.428 seconds in just eight completed laps.

Battistini was second, 5.698 seconds behind, followed by Sy, fourth round winner Dado Peña of Team Goddard, Indon Moreno Soeprapto of Aran Racing, Macau's Cheong Lou-meng of Team Goddard, Filipino Pepon Marave of Shell Helix Kinetic PCSO and Dela Merced.

"It was raining and I chose to drive safely," said Peña, whose stint here is backed by PLDT, Mossimo, MOF, Hanjin and Manila Bulletin. "I prefer under-steering in wet conditions and going for points. Fourth place isn't so bad, especially after the accident. Sometimes it pays to be safe."

Three other drivers—Roland Hermoso of Speedtech Asia, Briton James Winslow of JA Motorsport and Indon Hermanto of R&W Team Indonesia Fastron—failed to finish, either spinning out or slamming into protective barriers due to poor visibility.

Menacing stares were directed at Battistini after the race, but the Irishman said: "I was surprised to see Tyson trying to overtake me. We were aware of the yellow flag."

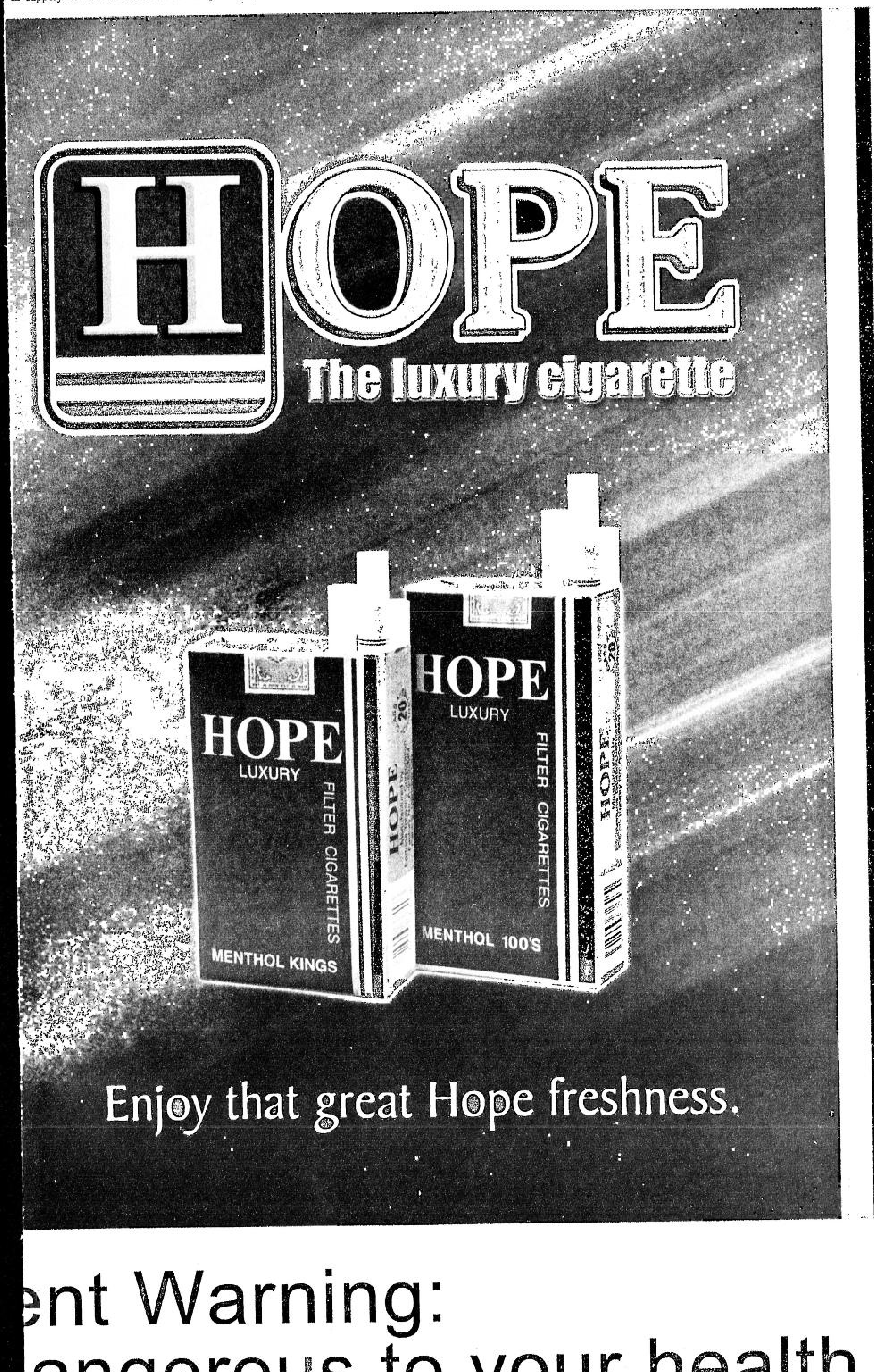
All cars were forced to change to wet tires when a drizzle just before the race developed into heavy rains.

Lost in the commotion was the feat scored by Jackson.

"Dado started rather slow and I pounced on the opportunity," Jackson said. "I just tried to do things quicker."

Fortunately for Dela Merced, she stalled one lap earlier, giving her plenty of time to get out of her car. Race stewards were already at the track trying to push her machine out of harm's way when Battistini and Sy suddenly loomed out of the far corner.

- Race enthusiasts can monitor the races by logging on to www.asianf3.net and www.pldtmypad.net.



ent Warning:
angerous to your health.

Archery tilt up; Salonga is guest

SEVENTY-SIX ARCHERS—51 men and 25 women—will see action in the 2006 National Target Archery Championship which fires off tomorrow at the Subic Bay Freeport Field in Olongapo City.

Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) chair Feliciano G. Salonga will be the guest of honor during the opening ceremony at 4:30 p.m. today of the event which is part of the Philippine Olympic Festival.

Action starts tomorrow with the staging of the qualifying round in the 90, 70 and 60 meters.

Salonga will declare the tournament open and shoot the ceremonial arrow together with Filipino Southeast Asian Games medalists.

Archery president Dr. Leonora Fe S. Brawner will welcome the guests, officials and participants; multi-titled Joann C. Tabañag will lead the oath of sportsmanship and Fe Empaynado, FITA and AAF continental judge, will sing the national anthem.

Del Rosario, Virata top E. Ridge golf

RAYMUNDO DEL Rosario and Juancho Virata upstaged the younger players with the lowest net of 59, copping the seniors division title in the members monthly tournament for June of the Eagle Ridge Golf and Country Club in Gen. Trias, Cavite.

Del Rosario and Virata assembled a best-ball gross of three-under 69 at the tough Andy Dye course but could only post a one-shot victory over the pair of Uriel Halum and Rosendo Cruz in the tournament.

Stephen Albano and Renato Kapauan posted the tightest win among the four champion pairs, beating Jeon Tae-sung-Park Kun-hee in the countback for the Division III crown after both had tied with net 60s.

Shirley Tiu-Rizalina Uy, Arnold Jumalon-Peping Nepomuceno, Larry Aguila-Roland Ramos also went home with winner's trophies.

Tiu and Uy conspired for a net 60 for a five-shot win over Choi Song-ye-Kim Ji-hyun in the ladies division; Jumalon and Nepomuceno's net 62 was a shot better than the tandem of Raul Bandera-Jose Mari Lim; while Aguila and Ramos (64) also edged Frank Sta. Ana-Reynaldo Aguilera by a stroke.

Day of the World Cup underdogs

Ghana upsets World No. 2 Czech Republic; US holds Italy to crucial 1-1 draw

GHANA'S Asamoah Gyan (top) scores his team's first goal as Czech Republic's goalkeeper Petr Cech lunges for a futile stop during their Group E match. REUTERS

COLOGNE, GERMANY—GHANA DELIVERED AFRICA'S first victory in this World Cup with style.

The Black Stars stunned the Czech Republic—ranked second in the world—2-0 Saturday. A goal in the second minute gave them the lead and they peppered the Czech net the rest of the game before finally getting another goal.

Ghana's win also helped the United States, which drew 1-1 with Italy later Saturday. The Italians lead Group E with four points, the Czechs and Ghana have three and the Americans one.

All four are alive to advance, depending on their games Thursday. Ghana takes on the Americans and the Italians face the Czechs.

Asamoah Gyan scored in the second minute off a piercing pass from captain Stephen Appiah. It all went the west Africans' way from then for the biggest upset in Germany so far.

"It's fantastic. We showed we can do it," Appiah said. "I thank the Ghanians for their massive support and the Germans, who were shouting 'Ghana, Ghana.'

"I couldn't believe it. I was nearly crying."

Sulley Muntari put the game out of reach in the 82nd minute after keeper Petr Cech made a handful of sy scored in 70 seconds and then we had to attack and they relied on counterattacks and added another goal."

In Kaiserslautern, Germany, Italy was held to a 1-1 draw by the United States.

Italy finished a man down and the Americans ended with only nine men.

Alberto Gilardino put Italy in front with a diving header in the 22nd minute and defender Cristian Zaccardo gave the lead up with an own-goal five minutes later.

Both Pablo Mastroeni and defender Eddie Pope were sent off for the Americans after Daniele De Rossi was red-carded for Italy.

Italy coach Marcello Lippi said the team paid for the energy output in its 2-0 opening win over Ghana five days ago and the corruption scandal that has hung over the team since it began training camp.

"It's human. Our guys worked with an incredible amount of intensity to prepare for this World Cup with all of those things going on and I don't think we recovered from our first game," Lippi said.

"It was a very different approach and we had problems from the start. We missed passes, we couldn't combine plays and that led to nervousness like with De Rossi and other problems."

"Our World Cup begins now. From here on, it's win or you're out," Lippi said.

Italy extended its unbeaten streak to 20 games, the second longest streak in Azzurri history. Italy went 30 games without losing from 1935-39, a period that included the country's second World Cup title in 1938.

The United States showed significant improvement from its opening game.

"There's no way you can train a team to play 10 against nine for 40 some odd minutes in a World Cup and our guys did a tremendous job," United States coach Bruce Arena said. "A lot of teams would lose their composure."

Coming off a comfortable win over Ghana, Italy appeared unprepared for the Americans' disciplined play at the start.

Playmaker Francesco Totti picked up a yellow card in the fifth minute for a sliding tackle on Clint Dempsey.

In the 15th, Bobby Convey's free kick was deflected wide off an Azzurri wall. A minute later, Convey had another chance but shot high from 12 meters (yards).

Dempsey's shot was also off the mark in the 18th.

Pope was given a yellow card for taking down Gilardino in the 21st and the Italian gave his team the lead a minute later.

The AC Milan forward slipped past the American defense to connect with Andrea Pirlo's free kick for his eighth goal in 17 appearances for Italy.

Zaccardo's clearing attempt on a cross from Convey in the 27th went in the wrong direction and ended up in Italy's goal to even the match.

In the 28th, De Rossi elbowed Brian McBride in the face while going up for a header, warranting a red card and drawing blood from below the left eye of the American forward.

At 22, De Rossi is the youngest player on Italy's team. He was also given a yellow card for an aggressive foul early in Italy's win over Ghana.

De Rossi's exit prompted Lippi to replace Totti with physical midfielder Gennaro Gattuso in the 35th.

Terms were leveled when Mastroeni, a defender, was expelled for taking out Andrea Pirlo's legs from behind in the 45th.

Uruguayan referee Jorge Larrionda warned US defender Oguchi Onyewu for slapping Luca Toni before halftime.

Two minutes into the second half, Pope picked up his second yellow card for a foul from behind on Gilardino, reducing the Americans to nine men. *AP*

ENGLAND'S Michael Owen (left), Aaron Lennon (center) and Wayne Rooney go for a run during training at their World Cup soccer training camp near Baden-Baden. REUTERS

England boss gives Rooney green light to start vs Sweden

BADEN-BADEN—SVEN-GORAN Eriksson is poised to give Wayne Rooney his first start of the World Cup as England attempts to end its 38-year winless streak against Sweden on Tuesday.

England boss Eriksson is keen to start Rooney against the Swedes for a game that his team only need to draw in order to win Group B and avoid a possible last 16 match against host nation Germany.

Rooney made a sooner-than-expected return to the fray last week when he appeared as a second-half substitute against Trinidad and Tobago, his presence lifting his teammates to help secure an unconvincing 2-0 victory.

The Manchester United striker, who had initially been deemed unlikely to figure in the first phase as he battled back from a broken metatarsal, has already told Eriksson he is itching to play.

But Eriksson will delay making a decision until he is satisfied that Rooney's fitness levels will allow him to play a significant part of Tuesday's match in Cologne.

'Looks fine'

"He looks fine," said Eriksson. "I spoke to him and the physios and there was no reaction after the Trinidad match. He said he was ready to play 90 minutes already—he's been telling me that for three weeks.

"Of course I would like to start him but I will ask the opinions of the doctors and the physios first. It's important we look at him in training before taking that decision.

"If he's going to start, I must be convinced that he is able to play at least one hour. Because if he can only play 45 minutes it's going to be better to put him on in the second half. So we'll see."

Lackluster display

Rooney's return would most likely come at the expense of 6-foot-7 striker Peter Crouch, with the struggling Michael Owen getting another chance to play his way back into form against opponents England have not beaten since 1968.

Owen's position has come under scrutiny after lackluster displays against Paraguay and Trinidad which saw him hauled off before the hour mark on each occasion.

The Newcastle United striker is struggling for fitness after missing most of the season with a foot injury, but Eriksson is a long-time fan of the 26-year-old center-forward.

"I'm not concerned about Michael," Eriksson said. "It was a pity that he didn't score the other day with the chance that he had. He will come good."

The Swede is also adamant that a Rooney-Owen strikeforce remains his most potent attacking combination, meaning that Crouch is likely to be stood down.

The fact that Crouch is one of three England players on a booking—Frank Lampard and Steven Gerrard are the others—is also a factor. *AFP*

Goalkeeper Cech says Czechs down, not out

COLOGNE, GERMANY—ONE CZECH REPUBLIC player emerged with credit from Saturday's World Cup loss to Ghana—goalkeeper Petr Cech.

And although Ghana surprised the favored Czechs, 2-0, in their second World Cup game, his saves ensured his team could remain marginally more positive about its chances of advancing.

Asamoah Gyan scored in the second minute and Sulley Muntari added the second goal in the 82nd. It would have been more had Cech not thwarted many more clear chances.

"We spoiled a game, that can happen to anyone. We've got three points and need more," Cech said. "The road (to the second round) became more complicated but I can still see the light at the end and I think we are able to get there."

The Czechs beat the United States, 3-0, in the World Cup opener Monday, when Ghana lost to Italy, 2-0, in Group E.

Cech thought he'd done enough to earn another good result on Saturday.

"I did the maximum I'm capable of," he said. "When I save five goal opportunities and the opponent wastes a penalty I would expect at least a draw. Unfortunately, that wasn't the case."

All four teams in the group can still advance as the United States and Italy drew 1-1 Saturday. Ghana faces the United States in its final match Thursday, when the Czech Republic takes on Italy.

"Now, we have 90 minutes to score more goals than Italy and it will be as difficult for them as for us. If we want to advance we have to win and we'll do all we can to achieve that," he said. "Anything can still happen in our group. The good thing is that it's still in our hands to advance."

The Czechs played without injured key strikers Jan Koller and Milan Baros. Alone up front, Vratislav Lokvenc didn't impress for most of the game and will be suspended for the third group match after picking up a second yellow card.

The Czechs will also miss central defender Tomas Ujfalusi who was sent off. Koller was also ruled out of the group stage due to a hamstring injury and Baros was uncertain for the game against Italy with a foot injury.

"It was a black day for us from the beginning," Cech said. "The goal turned the game upside down. We let them do what they wanted. They scored in 70 seconds and then we had to attack and they relied on counterattacks and added another goal."

Without their major strikers, the Czechs entered the game focused on defending and relying on counterattacks. Following the early goal they had to go on attacking instead.

"We believed we could score at least a goal but we failed to do it," playmaker Tomas Rosicky said. "Now, we'll fight against Italy and I hope that we won't go home (after that match)." *AP*

FIFA WORLD CUP GERMANY 2006

First Round

Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
GROUP A							
x-Ecuador	2	2	0	0	5	0	6
x-Germany	2	2	0	0	5	2	6
Poland	2	0	0	2	0	3	0
Costa Rica	2	0	0	2	2	7	0
x-England	2	2	0	0	3	0	6
Sweden	2	1	1	0	1	0	4
Trinidad	2	0	1	1	0	2	1
Paraguay	2	0	0	2	0	2	0
GROUP C							
x-Argentina	2	2	0	0	8	1	6
x-Netherlands	2	2	0	0	3	1	6
Ivory Coast	2	0	0	2	2	4	0
Serbia	2	0	0	2	0	7	0
GROUP D							
x-Portugal	2	2	0	0	3	0	6
Mexico	2	1	1	0	3	1	4
Angola	2	0	1	1	0	1	1
Iran	2	0	0	2	1	5	0
GROUP E							
Italy	2	1	1	0	3	1	4
Czech Republic	2	1	0	1	3	2	3
Ghana	2	1	0	1	2	2	3
United States	2	0	1	1	1	4	1
GROUP F - Monday, June 12							
Australia	1	1	0	0	3	1	3
Brazil	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Croatia	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Japan	1	0	0	1	1	3	0

x-advanced to second round INOGRAPHICS/LOUIE BACAN

FIFA WORLD CUP ON SPORTSPLUS
12 a.m.—Czech Republic vs. Ghana
3 a.m.—Portugal vs. Iran
1 p.m.—Italy vs. USA

RONALDO: First World Cup goal. REUTERS

AFTER 40 YEARS

Hardworking trio shines bright as Portugal finally advances

FRANKFURT, GERMANY—DECO DIDN'T SET the game alight when Portugal met Iran on Saturday.

Neither did Luis Figo nor Cristiano Ronaldo.

But the trio of Portuguese players were workmanlike and played a vital role in putting the team into the second round of the World Cup—a feat it last attained in 1966—with a 2-0 victory.

Deco won the Man of the Match award for his performance, even though the FC Barcelona playmaker was below his usual standard after a leg muscle strain kept him out of Portugal's opening win over Angola.

Figo is continuing the strong form he has showed since moving to Inter Milan last year from Real Madrid.

He had a hand in both goals, crossing from the left for Deco to hit a powerful right-foot shot into a top corner of the net in the 63rd minute.

Another piercing run down the left from Figo led to the penalty as he was fouled inside the area.

Ronaldo stepped up for the penalty kick and knocked it to the goalkeeper's right for his first World Cup goal. Previously, the Manchester United winger had created Portugal's best chances of the game.

"People need to have faith in us," Deco said. "We believe we can do it and we're showing we can."

Portugal coach Luiz Felipe Scolari said his players improved since the Angola match and promised greater things.

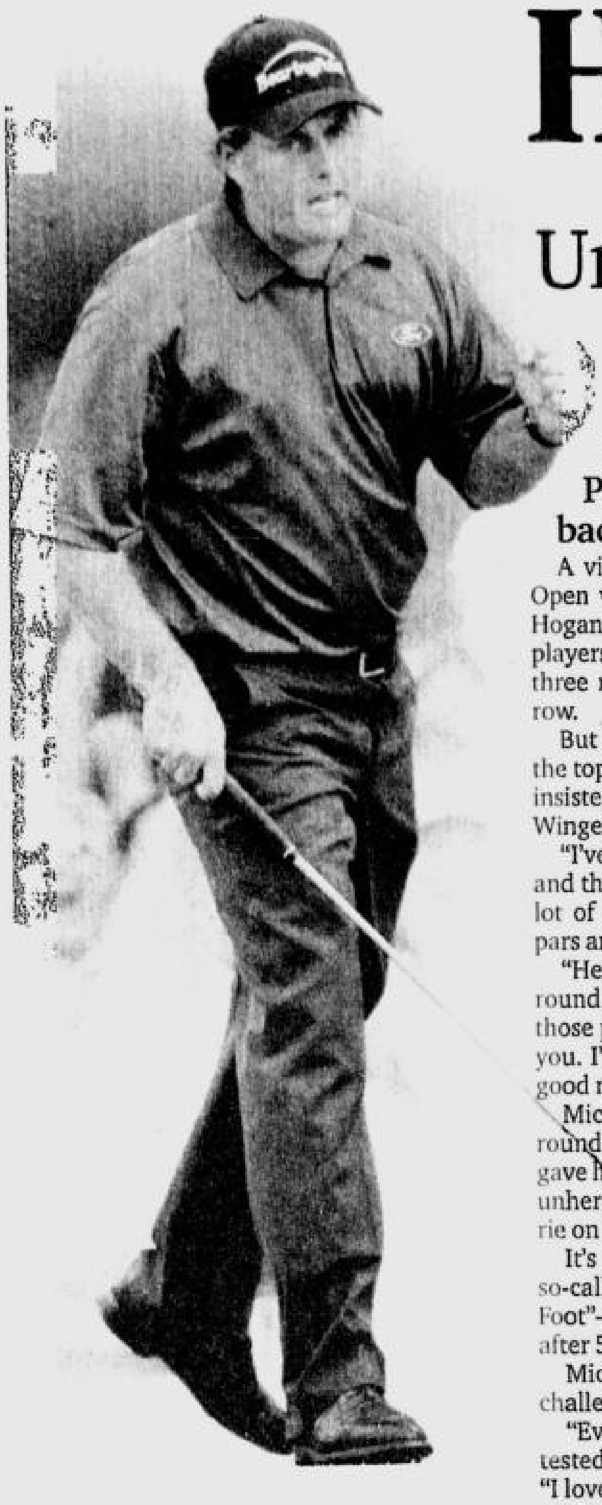
Looking at how far Portugal might go in the tournament, Scolari warned his squad didn't have the depth of quality of other teams.

"The other teams are in a better position than we are because they have 23 outstanding players," he said. "We have some difficulties, sometimes we have to improvise, but as we are at the moment it's great."

Portugal plays Mexico on Wednesday in an encounter that will decide which of the two finishes at the top of Group D. *AP*

History beckons

Unknown Englishman stands in way of Mickelson's 3rd straight Major



MICKELSON: Almost there REUTERS

MAMARONECK, NEW YORK—THE LAST THING Phil Mickelson had time for Saturday was a look back at history.

A victory Sunday in the 2006 US Open would see Mickelson join Ben Hogan and Tiger Woods as the only players since Bobby Jones to win three major golf championships in a row.

But after finally working his way to the top of the leaderboard, Mickelson insisted he wouldn't take his mind off Winged Foot until it was all over.

"I've got one round to go, 18 holes, and there's a lot of guys right there, a lot of good players that are making pars and fighting," said Mickelson.

"Heading into tomorrow with one round to go, I'm not thinking about those past tournaments or what have you. I'm trying to just play one more good round."

Mickelson's 69 was one of just two rounds under par on Saturday, and it gave him a share of the lead alongside unheralded Englishman Kenneth Ferrie on two-over 212.

It's the first time since 1974—the so-called "Massacre at Winged Foot"—that an over-par score has led after 54 holes.

Mickelson said he was enjoying the challenge.

"Every year, one time a year, we get tested like this, and I love it," he said. "I love being tested at the highest level of the most difficult and sometimes ridiculous golf course set-ups we'll ever see.

"I love it because I get to find out where my game is at, where my head is at."

It would be fitting if Mickelson won his first US Open title in New York, considering two of his three runner-up finishes in the event have come in the area, at Shinnecock Hills in 2004 and Bethpage Black in 2002.

New York fans have clearly taken him to their hearts, a relationship Mickelson says he hasn't tried to look into too deeply.

"I haven't analyzed it," the Californian said, "but I certainly have enjoyed it."

The 27-year-old Ferrie, a two-time winner on the European tour, is playing in his first US Open and just his fourth major championship.

But he kept his head on a brutally difficult Winged Foot West course—where Tiger Woods failed to make the cut—emerging with a one-over 71 to share the lead.

The 7,264-yard, par-70 Winged Foot West course hasn't produced a massacre so far this year, but it has produced a chillingly stern test of golf.

Mickelson's was one of only two sub-par rounds on Saturday.

Starting four shots off the lead, he had three bogeys and two birdies on his outward run, and added two birdies coming home.

"The only place I'd rather be is leading by a few shots," Mickelson said. "But I fought hard on the back nine to give myself a chance.

"The front nine I didn't drive it well," he added. "I hit two good tee shots at four and six and made two birdies. The back nine it kind of came together."

That could be bad news for the rest of the field, although Mickelson said that given the rigors of the course, any number of players on the crowded leaderboard could walk away with the trophy.

Ferrie fell into a tie with Mickelson with a three-putt bogey after an approach that left him in a poor position about 30 feet from the pin.

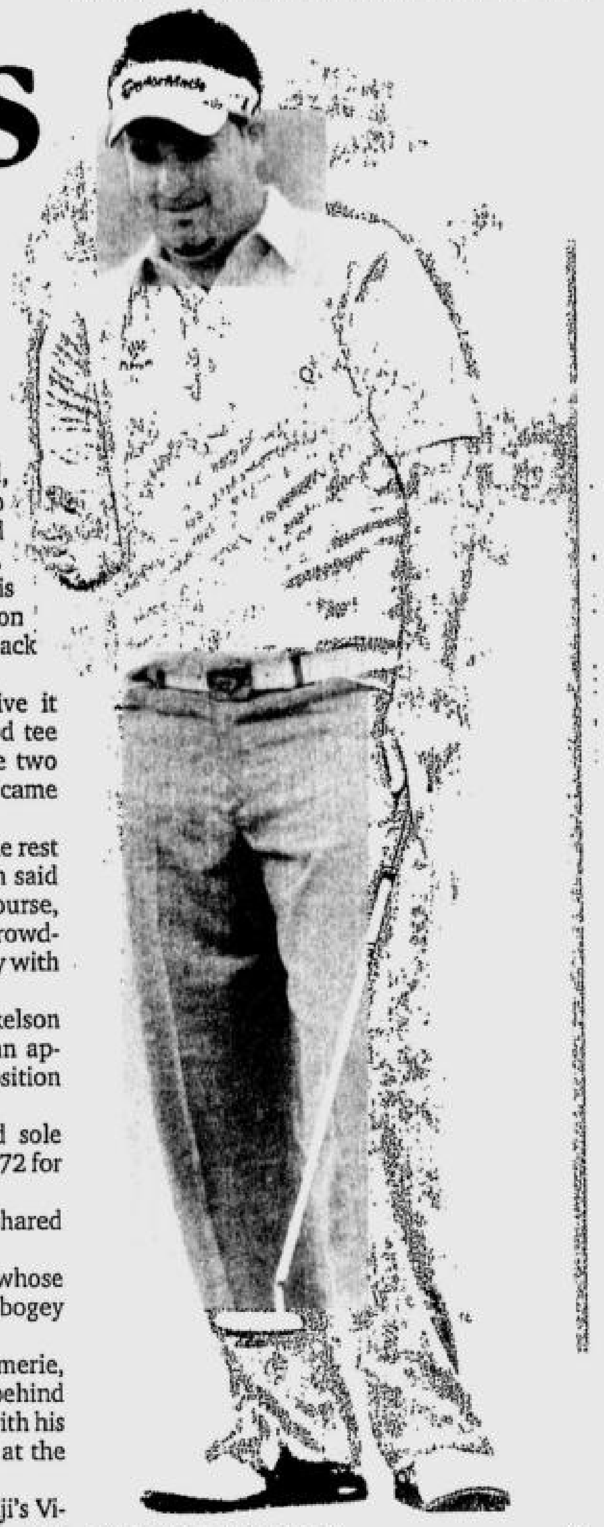
Australia's Geoff Ogilvy had sole possession of third place after a 72 for 213.

A group of four players shared fourth place on five-over 215.

They included Stricker, who whose six-over 76 included a double-bogey at the 458-yard par-four 14th.

Scotland's Colin Montgomerie, who started the day one shot behind Stricker, also finished on 215, with his greatest troubles coming right at the start.

England's Ian Poulter and Fiji's Vijay Singh both shot 70 for 215. *AFP*

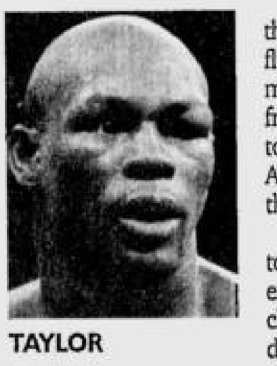


FERRIE: Spolier's role? AFP

Taylor keeps titles after controversial draw with Wright

MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE—JERMAIN Taylor didn't do enough to beat Winky Wright, but just enough to keep his middleweight titles.

Taylor and Wright fought to a draw Saturday night, allowing Taylor to keep his undisputed title in a decision that infuriated Wright so much that he ran from the ring in protest.



TAYLOR

WRIGHT

Wright appeared to dominate the late rounds and Taylor's left eye was closed in the final round. The No. 1 challenger was so confident of victory that he was on the shoulders of a cornerman with his arms raised when the decision was announced.

One judge had Taylor winning 115-113, one had Wright ahead by the same margin and the third had it a 114-114 draw. The Associated Press scored it 116-112 for Wright.

Wright may have hurt himself at the end when he took much of the final round off, so confident he was that he was winning.

"He was running around in the last round like he had the fight won," Taylor said. "If I was him I would have kept fighting."

Wright, known as a defensive specialist, took the fight to Taylor from the opening bell in a fight that was fast-paced until it began to slow in the later rounds as both fighters were on the verge of exhaustion.

Two judges gave Taylor the final round to get him the draw.

"If I didn't win the 12th round, then who did?" Wright asked. "He certainly didn't."

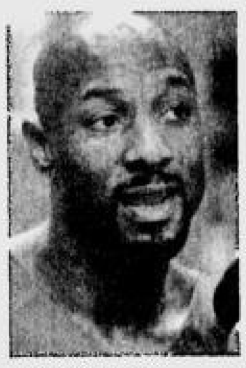
Wright complained that the judges were influenced by the crowd, many of whom came from Taylor's hometown of Little Rock, Arkansas, to cheer on their fighter.

"I came to his hometown and showed everybody I'm the champ," he said. "I don't want a rematch. If I have to come here and get that kind of decision, what's the point."

Taylor, who had beaten Bernard Hopkins twice to win the titles, remained undefeated in 26 fights and kept the three belts that he brought into the ring. He did it mainly by using a big right hand to keep Wright off of him during many exchanges.

"It was a close fight, it could have gone either way," Taylor said.

Wright's corner was as confident as the fighter after the 11th round, when Wright went back to his corner with his arms raised. *AP*



MOURNING AP

Game 5, Zo's Miami farewell?

MIAMI—ALONZO MOURNING'S DECISION to play this season was based partly on a request from his son Trey, who boldly predicted 2006 would be the year for the Miami Heat finally to win a NBA championship.

"One more year," Mourning said last summer.

Maybe. Maybe not.

On the eve of what could be his final home game in a Miami Heat uniform, Mourning said on Saturday he hasn't made any decisions about his future—nor had he even realized Sunday's Game 5 of the NBA finals might be his farewell as an active player in South Florida.

"I'll cross that bridge when I get to it," Mourning said. "I really hadn't even thought about it. I'm glad you brought that to my attention. It could be the last time I play in this building."

And it's a building with many memories for Mourning—but they might all pale in comparison to the scene if Miami can beat the Dallas Mavericks on Sunday and take a 3-2 lead in the title series. *AP*

Dallas coach Johnson's one very mad Maverick

MIAMI—ONE DAY AFTER CALLING JERRY Stackhouse's suspension for Game 5 of the NBA finals for a hard foul against Miami center Shaquille O'Neal "a bunch of baloney," Dallas coach Avery Johnson vented during a fiery interview session on Saturday.

The spiritual Johnson, who has spent time preaching in church pulpits, did more than cry foul. He hollered for justice.

"Everybody's so amazed that I disagree with the decision," he said. "I mean, what am I supposed to do, go out and have a parade and have a party? Because the league comes down with a certain ruling, what are we supposed to do as coaches, say amen?

"I disagree with the ruling, all right. I don't think it's consistent with what we've seen in the playoffs. It didn't bother Shaq. I just want there to be a level of consistency. There's too much inconsistency. That's the frustration for me. Just be consistent, all right."

All right.

Johnson, though, wasn't done. He ranted and raved some more.

At one point, without uttering O'Neal's name, Johnson alluded that Miami's big man, who split open Stackhouse's nose with an elbow in Game 1, was getting preferential treatment from officials.

"Look at the first play of the game, all right," he said, referring to Game 4. "Their player, Player A, came over and just pounded Dirk (Nowitzki). I wasn't crying about a flagrant foul. It was an elbow to Dirk's head.

"But we make the same attempt, and then my player gets suspended. So now because I'm supposed to be a religious man, I'm supposed to come in here and have a prayer meeting."

Stackhouse's shove that flattened O'Neal in the third quarter of Miami's 98-74 rout in Game 4 remained the hot topic as the Mavericks and Heat prepared for Sunday's Game 5.

Stackhouse, who is averaging 13.0 points in the finals, took part in the club's practice. Afterward, the third Mavericks player to be suspended during these playoffs, was asked for a comment.

"Go Mavs," said Stackhouse.

What about the suspension?

"The league handed it down—just accept it and move on," he added.

O'Neal shrugged off suggestions that the series was getting nasty because of Stackhouse's hard knock.

"It was just a hard foul. It's over for me," he said. "It was a hard foul that I really, really enjoyed. Felt good, actually, the next morning when I woke up. Now I don't have to see my chiropractor. He saved me $50." *AP*

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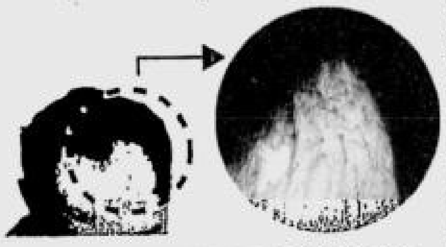

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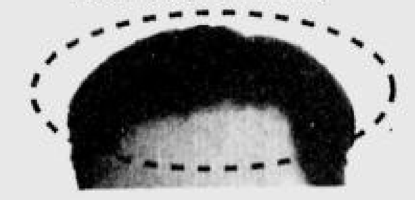

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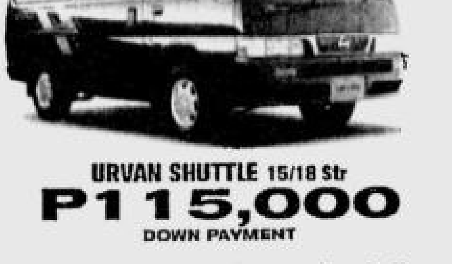

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Torre leads Ozamiz cast

THE COUNTRY'S TOP woodpushers, led by Asia's first grandmaster Eugene Torre and International Masters Oliver Dimakiling, Barlo Nadera and Richard Bitoon are vying for the lion's share of the P70,000 prize pot in the 1st Ozamis City National Open Chess Championships slated July 1-3, 2006 at the Congressman Hilarion Ramiro Jr. Gymnasium in Ozamiz City, Misamis Occidental. Aside from the Torre, and the three IMs, also seeing action are NM Cyril Ortega and youthful Kim Steven Yap of Cebu, NM Emmanuel Senador of Iloilo, NM Mirabeau Maga of Quezon City and FM Vince Alaan of Surigao City.

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For 14 years now, we have been touching the lives of hundreds of Filipino youths all over the country through the Shell National Youth Active Chess Championship.

Since then, over 100,000 Filipino youngsters have developed interest in playing chess while cultivating discipline, honesty, sportsmanship, and dedication. To date, a number of Filipino Chess Masters have already proved excellence and competitiveness in the global mental sport arena.

This year, the search for the future masters continues.

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SM City Manila (5th Level, Activity Center)
Coordinator: Alex E. Dinoy
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Mobile: 0916-5146384

July 08-09 Northern Luzon (Baguio)
SM City Baguio (Lower Ground, Atrium)
Coordinator: [illegible] Domondon
Tel no. (074) 446-9103
Alex E. Dinoy
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Mobile: 0916-5146384

July 23-24 Northern Luzon (Tuguegarao)
People's Gymnasium, Tuguegarao City
Coordinator: Mariano Cabugao
Tel no. (078) 844-2894
Alex E. Dinoy
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Mobile: 0916-5146384

August 05-06 Southern Luzon (Batangas)
SM City Batangas (Entertainment Plaza)
Coordinator: [illegible] Castro
Tel nos. (043) 723-2568 / (043) [illegible]
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August 19-20 Central Visayas (Cebu)
SM City Cebu (Entertainment Plaza)
[illegible]
Tel. no. (032) [illegible]

September 02-03 Western Visayas (Iloilo)
SM City Iloilo (3/F, Activity Center)
Coordinator: NM Cesar [illegible]
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Mobile: 0919-2833824 / 0918-7720313
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September 16-17 Mindanao (Davao)
SM City Davao (Entertainment Plaza)
Coordinator: NM Ronnie [illegible]
Tel. no. (082) 300-4260

September 30-October 01 Mindanao (Zamboanga)
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SHELL NATIONAL YOUTH ACTIVE CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP: BREAKING BARRIERS FOR THE FILIPINO YOUTH

Chess is a game of logic and strategies. It requires no brawn but a keen, quick, and decisive thinking. Believing that chess can shape the Filipino youth to become competitive, Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corporation (Pilipinas Shell) launched in 1992 the Shell National Youth Active Chess Championship (Shell Youth Active Chess).

The journey of Shell Youth Active Chess has been fruitful with thousands of Filipino youths pouring in from all over the country to join Pilipinas Shell's annual search for outstanding wood pushers.

Since 1992, the Shell Youth Active Chess encourages Filipino youngsters to develop interest in playing the game of chess, which Pilipinas Shell believes cultivate positive values such as discipline, diligence, maturity, responsibility, and sense of fair play. It also promotes sportsmanship and provides channels to the Filipino youth to explore and discover his talents and abilities, enabling him to realise his self-worth.

The Shell Youth Active Chess has a lineage of Filipino chess champions who have brought fame and glory to our country. One of the distinguished chess players who graduated from the ranks of tournaments and gained individual prominence is Grand Master Nelson Mariano II.

Nelson started playing chess at the age of four. "My father taught me and my siblings how to play chess. I remember that at age 7, I had been playing chess with our neighbors who were much older than me and beaten them. That's when my father pushed me further to play chess."

Nelson participated in the maiden games of Shell Youth Active Chess in 1992. "I played in Batangas and emerged as the champion for that leg. But due to conflict in schedule, I failed to compete in the grand finals that year." Passionate about winning, Nelson did let the opportunity to slip off that he joined the competitions again in 1993. That year, he became a Grand Champion of Shell Youth Active Chess at age 18.

In 1993, Nelson got a taste of his first international competition at Doha in Qatar. "I was nervous. On the first round of the games, I lost. It was frustrating but I learned a lot from that experience. That inspired me to give my best as I competed for the Asian Junior Champion title in Malaysia in 1994 and I was victorious."

He has not been winning all the time. He lost his bid for the World Junior Title in 1994. Not letting his spirit to lose the will to fight and win, Nelson kept reminding himself that a good player is someone who learns from his failures and does not turn back on the challenges that come his way until he becomes victorious.

He acquired his first Grand Master norm in 1995. And in 2004, the sweetest of all victories for Nelson, he was bestowed the much-coveted Grand Master title. In the Southeast Asian Games held last year in Manila, the Philippine Chess team, where Mariano was part of, brought home the silver medal.

Like a true winner who knows that winning and losing are part of any game, Nelson shared a wisdom that every aspiring athlete can get inspiration from. "Pag natatalo ka, kailangan matuto kang bumangon. Para maipakita kung gaano ka katibay sa kahit anong laban."

Nelson's experience was just one of the many inspiring stories of student wood pushers which shows that the Shell Youth Active Chess paves the way to realise aspirations for those who relentlessly pursue their goals to create a niche in the chess arena.

The Shell Youth Active Chess for 2006 promises to be as exciting as ever with eight regional championships which kicks off at SM Manila for National Capital Region Leg (June 24-25), Baguio (July 8-9) and Tuguegarao (July 23-24) for Northern Luzon, Batangas (August 5-6) for Southern Luzon, Cebu (August 19-20) for Central Visayas, Iloilo for Western Visayas (September 2-3), Davao (September 16-17) and Zamboanga (September 30-October 1) for Mindanao. The Grand Finals will be held on October 21-22 at the Entertainment Plaza of SM City North Edsa. Each leg shall accept only the first 500 qualified participants on a first-come, first-served basis in accordance to the given deadlines for submission of registration forms for each leg. The registration fee is Php 50.00 for each participant.

The competition has two categories: the Juniors division (for participants aged 20 years old and under) and the Kiddies division (for participants aged 14 years old and under).

For each leg competition, top three players in the Kiddies and the Juniors divisions will fly to Manila to compete for the most coveted chess titles in the Grand Finals of the Shell National Youth Active Chess Championship.

The rules for Rapid Chess (30 minutes), as approved by the Federation Internationale des Echecs (FIDE), shall be applied.

As the Filipino youth continues to find his niche in the global arena, Pilipinas Shell shall remain committed to supporting the Filipino youth through programs like the Shell National Youth Active Chess Championship, which can help him explore and discover his abilities, overcome the challenges that will come his way, and propel him to achieve his aspirations in life. ADVT

ENTERTAINMENT
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Gina Pareño slugs it out with Monica Bellucci, Julie Walters, Salma Hayek

GINA Pareño

She's the star of 'Kubrador' which is competing in the Moscow film fest

By Marinel R. Cruz

GINA PAREÑO, LEAD ACtress in Jeffrey Jeturian's "Kubrador (The Bet Collector)," is set to slug it out with the likes of Julie Walters, Monica Bellucci and Salma Hayek for the Best Actress award in this year's Moscow International Film Festival.

"Kubrador," produced by MLR Films, will also compete for Best Picture against 16 other films from such countries as France, Germany, Poland, Sweden, Italy, Israel and Japan, among others.

The Moscow IFF will run from June 23 to July 2.

"Kubrador," which chronicles three days in the life of a bet collector (Pareño), will be screened on June 27, 6 p.m. in a 1,517-seat theater, according to Josabeth "Joji" Alonso of MLR Films.

Hayek stars in "Ask The Dust," Belluci in "How Much Do You Love Me?" and Walters in "Driving Lessons."

Other popular actors in the competition are Eva Mendez, John Malkovich, Collin Farell, Gérard Depardieu and Rupert Grint (of the "Harry Potter" series).

Alonso, Jeturian and Pareño are scheduled to leave for Russia on Thursday to join the festival events. They will return to Manila on July 5.

Alonso also told INQUIRER Entertainment that "Kubrador" had accepted another invitation to compete at the Osian's Cinefan Festival of Asian Cinema in New Delhi, India.

This festival starts on July 14 and ends on the 23rd. Jeturian and Pareño have been invited as the film's representatives and have each been assured of an all-expense-paid trip, added Alonso.

"Kubrador," written by Ralston G. Jover, is also being invited to the annual Pusan International Film Festival in South Korea and the Hawaii International Film Festival in Honolulu.

It has not been determined if the movie will be screened as a competition entry. The PIFF is set from Oct. 12 to 30; the HIFF from Oct. 19 to Nov. 5.

Invite for 'Cogon'

Meanwhile, Rico Maria Ilarde's "Sa Ilalim ng Cogon" has just been invited to the Puchon International Fantastic Film Festival in Korea next month.

The Puchon festival offers "alternative films in the genre of science fiction, fantasy, and horror from all around the world," according to a website of the European Fantastic Film Festival Federation. It starts on July 13 and ends July 20.

"The e-mail we received [from the festival organizers] does not mention whether or not 'Cogon' is for competition. [It guaranteed] plane fare and accommodations [but] I'm not sure what that means," Ilarde said in a text message on Saturday.

"Cogon" is about a young man named Sam (Yul Servo) who flees a heist that has gone horribly wrong and meets a mysterious woman in an old mansion, where he witnesses odd occurrences.

"Cogon" has participated in numerous film fests, including the 2006 Fribourg International Film Fest, Cinenygma Luxembourg International Film Festival and Far East Film Festival in Udine, Italy. At the 2005 Buenos Aires Rojo Sangre Fantasy/Horror Film Festival in Argentina, the movie won Best International Feature.

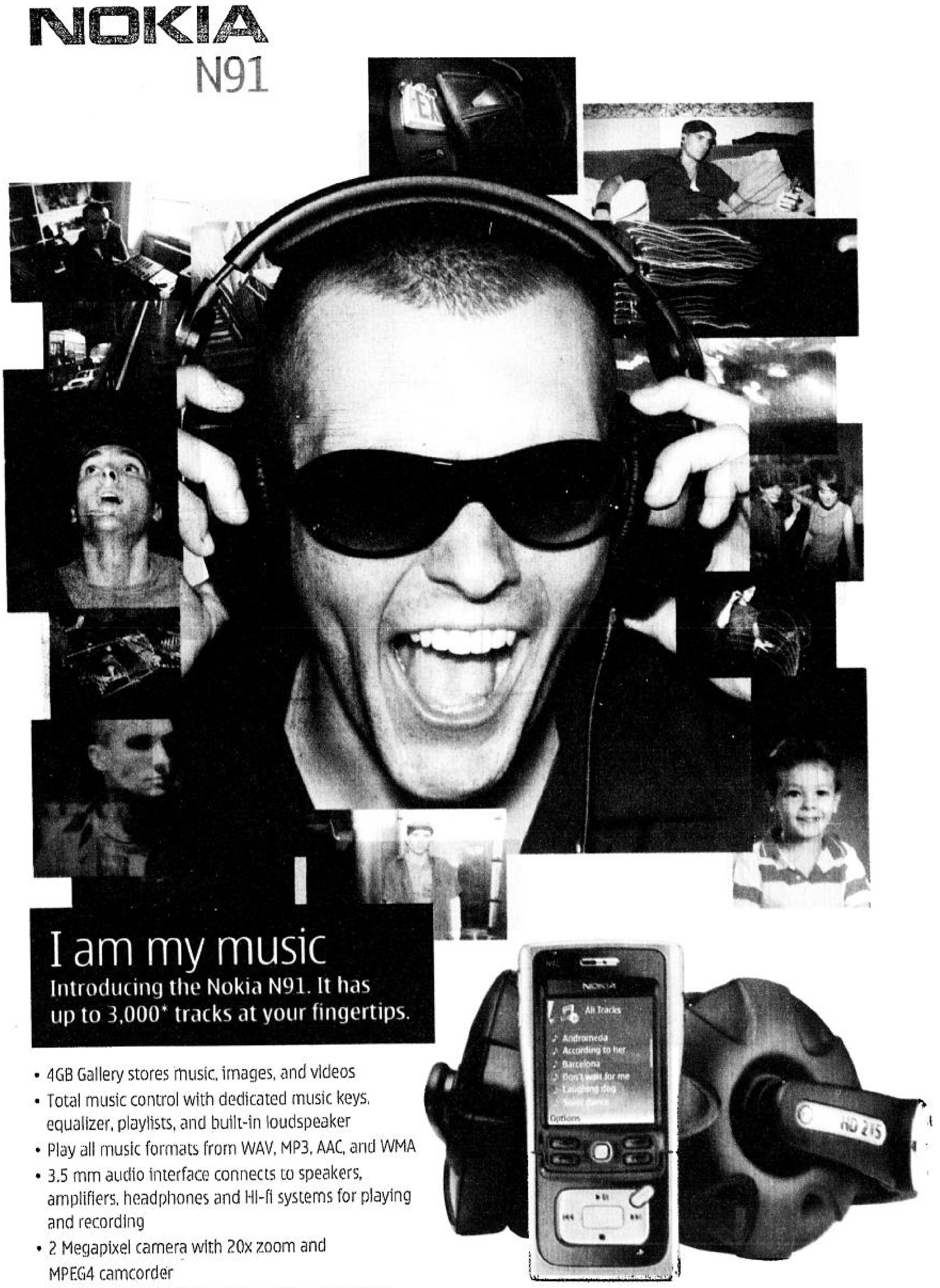
First for 'Brocka'

Sigfried Barros Sanchez's "Ang Anak ni Brocka" has received its first invitation to an international film derby via the 42nd Pesaro International Film Festival, set June 24 to July 2.

"Brocka" will have an international premiere along with eight other full-length

GINA/ A2-3

GINA Alajar (center) and Shamaine Centenera-Buencamino on the set of "Anak ni Brocka"



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3rd Level Digital Exchange
Glorietta, Makati City
752-8541

Nokia Store Robinsons Manila
3rd Level Robinsons Mall, Manila
526-6703

Nokia Store Morato
GF Landsberg Place
Tomas Morato, Quezon City
373-7110 to 13

Nokia Store Robinsons Galleria
GF Robinsons Galleria
Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City
637-6423

Nokia Store Festival
3rd Level Festival Mall
Muntinlupa City
772-5117 or 850-8487

Nokia Store SM City Davao
3rd Level SM City Davao
(082) 297-5807

Nokia Store North Edsa
GF Cyberzone, SM City North Edsa
Quezon City
426-7990

Nokia Store Tacloban City
Salazar St., Tacloban City
(053) 325-4080

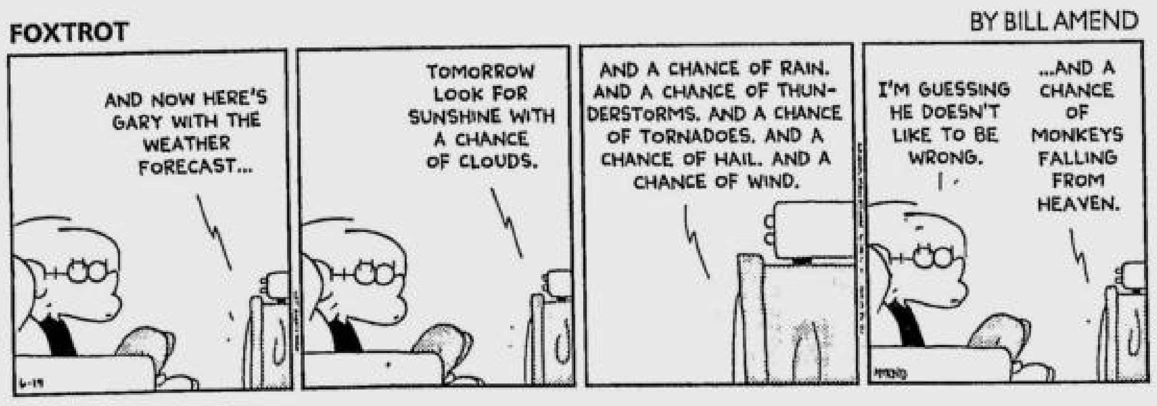
Nokia Store Gaisano Davao
3rd Level Gaisano Mall
(082) 225-4065

Nokia Store Cagayan de Oro
Ground Floor Limketkai Center Mall
(088) 856-9992

Make sure your new Nokia Mobile Phone comes with original enhancements and is protected by a 12-month warranty on parts and services from Nokia Care. Buy only at authorized Nokia outlets. For inquiries, call the Nokia Careline at (02) 886-1234.

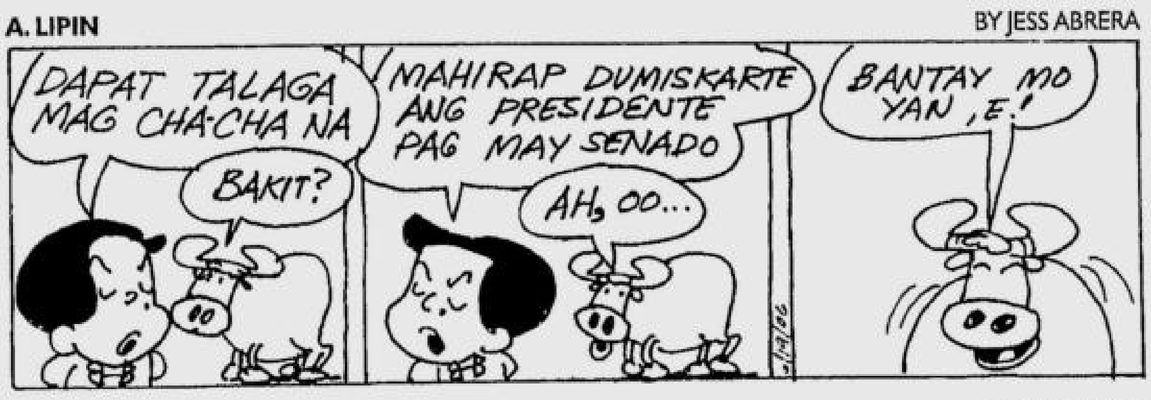
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


AND NOW HERE'S GARY WITH THE WEATHER FORECAST...
TOMORROW LOOK FOR SUNSHINE WITH A CHANCE OF CLOUDS.
AND A CHANCE OF RAIN. AND A CHANCE OF THUNDERSTORMS. AND A CHANCE OF TORNADOES. AND A CHANCE OF HAIL. AND A CHANCE OF WIND.
I'M GUESSING HE DOESN'T LIKE TO BE WRONG.
...AND A CHANCE OF MONKEYS FALLING FROM HEAVEN.

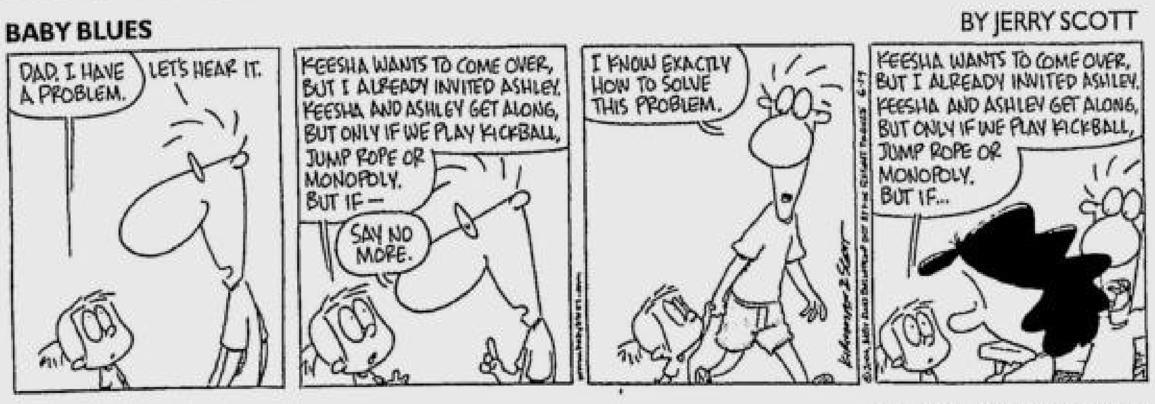
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


DAPAT TALAGA MAG CHA-CHA NA
BAKIT?
MAHIRAP DUMISKARTE ANG PRESIDENTE PAG MAY SENADO
AH, OO...
BANTAY MO YAN, E!

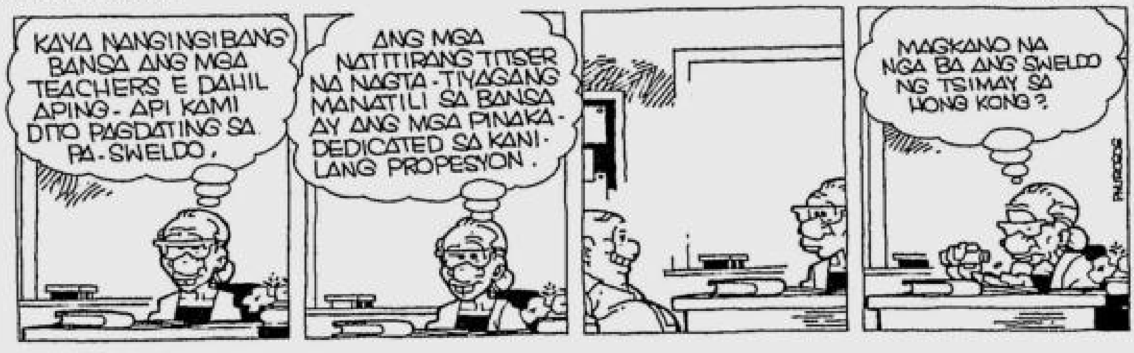
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


DAD, I HAVE A PROBLEM.
LET'S HEAR IT.
KEESHA WANTS TO COME OVER, BUT I ALREADY INVITED ASHLEY. KEESHA AND ASHLEY GET ALONG, BUT ONLY IF WE PLAY KICKBALL, JUMP ROPE OR MONOPOLY. BUT IF —
SAY NO MORE.
I KNOW EXACTLY HOW TO SOLVE THIS PROBLEM.
KEESHA WANTS TO COME OVER, BUT I ALREADY INVITED ASHLEY. KEESHA AND ASHLEY GET ALONG, BUT ONLY IF WE PLAY KICKBALL, JUMP ROPE OR MONOPOLY. BUT IF...

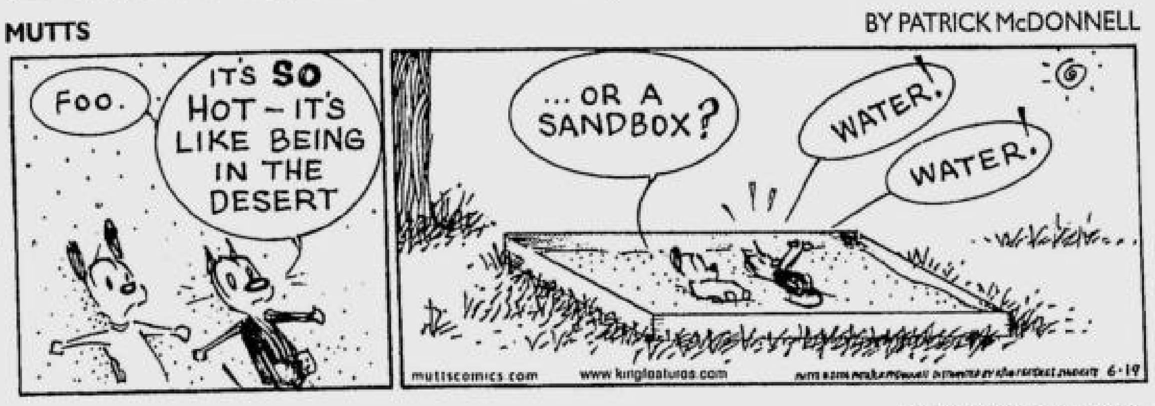
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


KAYA NANGINGIBANG BANSA ANG MGA TEACHERS E DAHIL APING-API KAMI DITO PAGDATING SA PA-SWELDO.
ANG MGA NATITIRANG TITSER NA NAGTA-TIYAGANG MANATILI SA BANSA AY ANG MGA PINAKA-DEDICATED SA KANI-LANG PROPESYON.
MAGKANO NA NGA BA ANG SWELDO NG TSIMAY SA HONG KONG?

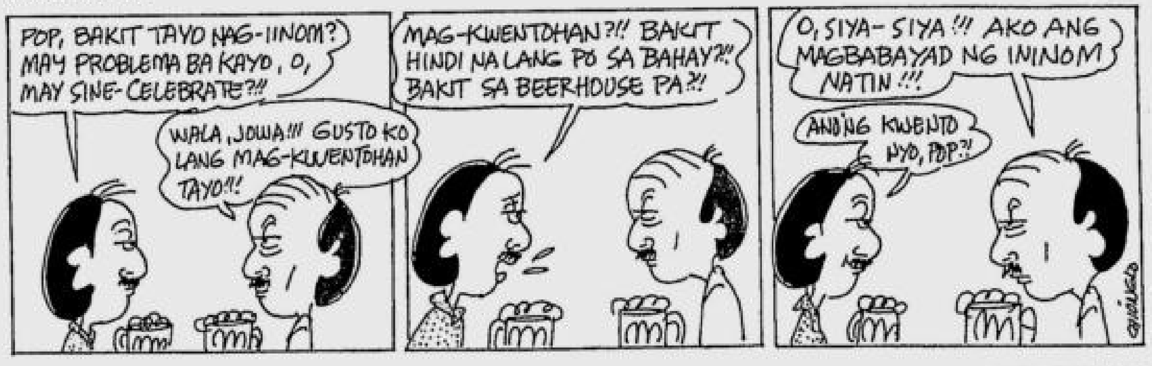
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


FOO.
IT'S SO HOT – IT'S LIKE BEING IN THE DESERT
... OR A SANDBOX?
WATER!
WATER!
muttscomics.com
www.kingfeatures.com
6-19

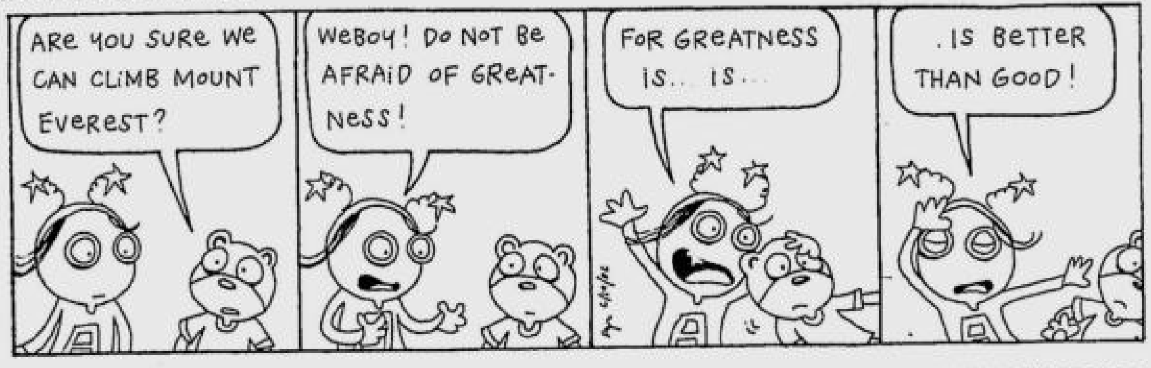
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


POP, BAKIT TAYO NAG-IINOM?! MAY PROBLEMA BA KAYO, O, MAY SINE-CELEBRATE?!!
WALA, JOWA!!! GUSTO KO LANG MAG-KWENTOHAN TAYO!!!
MAG-KWENTOHAN?!! BAKIT HINDI NA LANG PO SA BAHAY?!! BAKIT SA BEERHOUSE PA?!!
O, SIYA-SIYA!!! AKO ANG MAGBABAYAD NG ININOM NATIN!!!
ANO'NG KWENTO NYO, POP?!

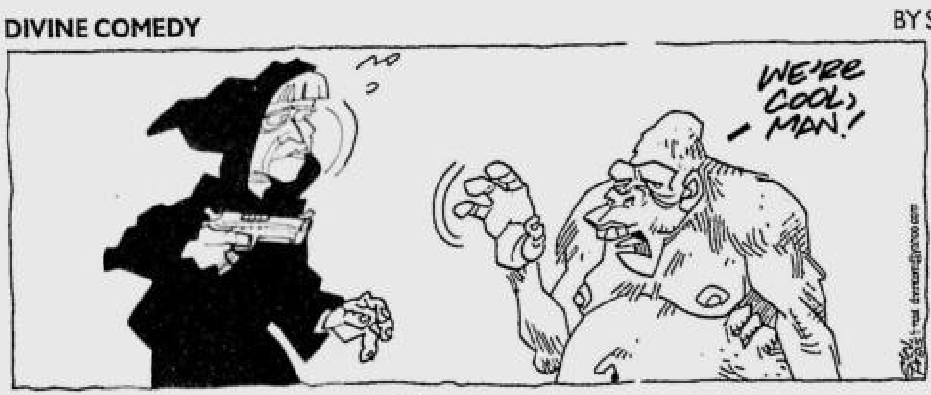
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


ARE YOU SURE WE CAN CLIMB MOUNT EVEREST?
WEBOY! DO NOT BE AFRAID OF GREATNESS!
FOR GREATNESS IS... IS...
. IS BETTER THAN GOOD!

DIVINE COMEDY

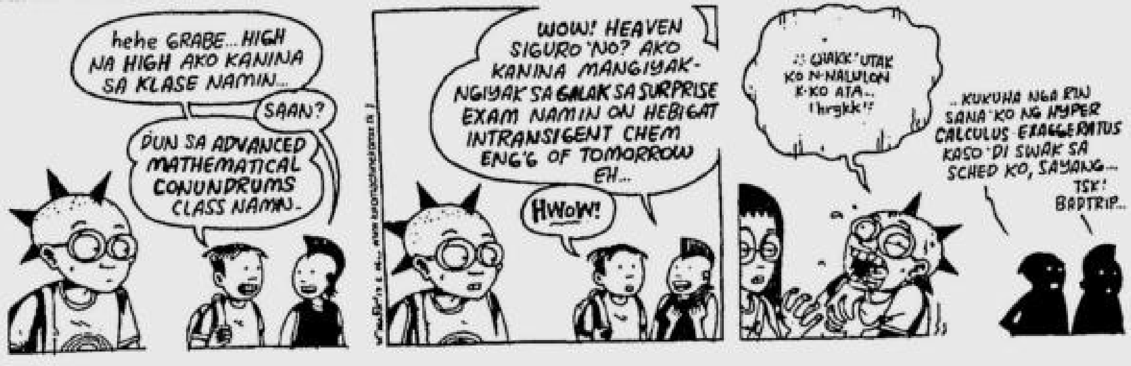
BY STEVEN PABALINAS


WE'RE COOL, MAN!

SILAS
THE ALBINO
MONK
MEETS
HARRY
THE ALBINO
GORILLA

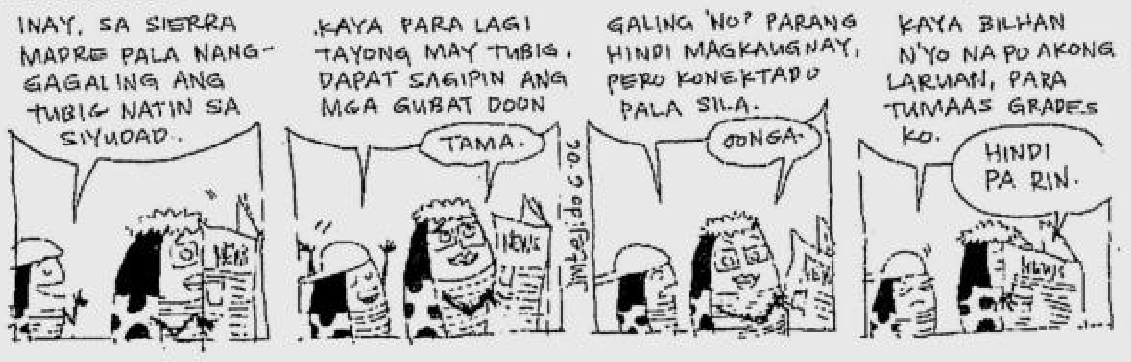
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


hehe GRABE... HIGH NA HIGH AKO KANINA SA KLASE NAMIN...
SAAN?
DUN SA ADVANCED MATHEMATICAL CONUNDRUMS CLASS NAMIN...
WOW! HEAVEN SIGURO 'NO? AKO KANINA MANGIYAK-NGIYAK SA GALAK SA SURPRISE EXAM NAMIN ON HEBIGAT INTRANSIGENT CHEM ENG'G OF TOMORROW EH...
HWOW!
GHAKK' UTAK KO N-NALULON K-KO ATA... Ihrgkk!
.. KUKUHA NGA RIN SANA KO NG HYPER CALCULUS EXAGGERATUS KASO 'DI SWAK SA SCHED KO, SAYANG...
TSK! BADTRIP...

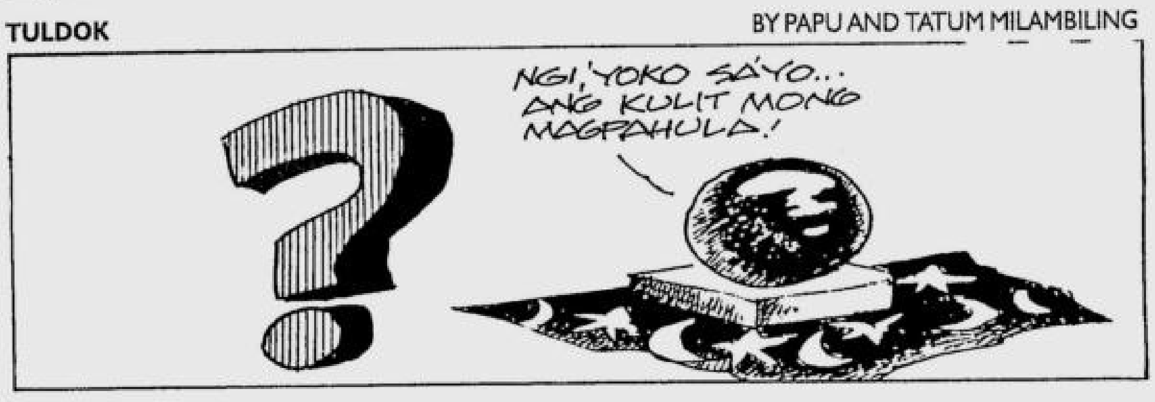
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


INAY, SA SIERRA MADRE PALA NANGGAGALING ANG TUBIG NATIN SA SIYUDAD.
KAYA PARA LAGI TAYONG MAY TUBIG, DAPAT SAGIPIN ANG MGA GUBAT DOON
TAMA.
GALING 'NO? PARANG HINDI MAGKAUGNAY, PERO KONEKTADO PALA SILA.
OO NGA.
KAYA BILHAN N'YO NA PO AKONG LARUAN, PARA TUMAAS GRADES KO.
HINDI PA RIN.
NEWS

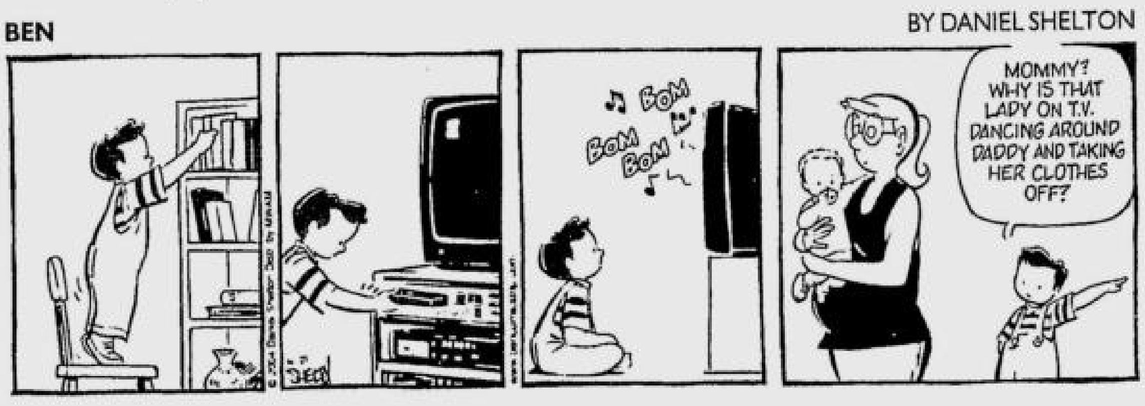
TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING

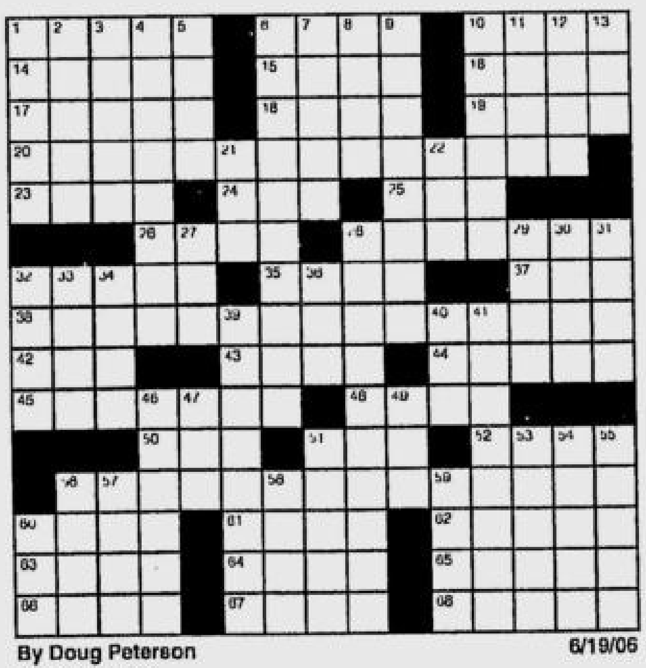

NGI, YOKO SA'YO... ANG KULIT MONG MAGPAHULA!

BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


BOM BOM BOM
MOMMY? WHY IS THAT LADY ON T.V. DANCING AROUND DADDY AND TAKING HER CLOTHES OFF?

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Doug Peterson
Pasadena, CA

6/19/06

ACROSS
1 Marsh grass
6 Scandinavian capital
10 Makes a move
14 Traction aid
15 Lat. list-ender
16 Lima's land
17 Go-between
18 Surrealist Salvador
19 Jack Horner's find
20 Jimmy Buffett hit
23 Corp. VIP
24 Mimic
25 Eden evictee
26 Vegan fare
28 Spoils
32 Polk's predecessor
35 Chop __
37 Miss the mark
38 Andrews Sisters hit
42 Glum
43 Ala. neighbor
44 Hold it, sailor!
45 Troop group
48 Top-rated
50 Ming of the NBA
51 New Deal pres.
52 Get out of bed
56 Subtitle of a Rupert Holmes hit (with "The")
60 Tailless cat
61 Norwegian king
62 Change labels
63 A single time
64 California valley
65 Mild cigar
66 Shooter ammo
67 __ the line (obeys)
68 Superman's pal Jimmy

DOWN
1 Little rascal
2 "Pomp and Circumstance" composer
3 Plow pioneer
4 Career criminal
5 Blues vocalist James
6 Drama by Sophocles
7 Cabinet department
8 Refrain syllables
9 Popeye's girl
10 Cameos and pippins
11 Slammer cubicle
12 In alignment
13 Addition solution
21 Brit. flyboys
22 Now __ seen everything!
27 Sphere
28 "Thelma and Louise" co-star
29 Actor Lugosi
30 Boats like Noah's
31 Confound it!
32 Recipe meas.
33 Slangy okay
34 Spartan queen
36 Fancy vase with a base
39 Free of charge
40 Trash in a review
41 Hype too much
46 Short-tailed wildcats
47 Penlight battery
49 Fort __, CA
51 Calgary NHLer
53 Teensy bits
54 Part of a drum set
55 Incite
56 Window piece
57 Royal Peruvian
58 Potpourri
59 Sacramento arena
60 Swabbie's tool

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

A	D	J	U	S	T	S	■	M	O	R	A	N	I	S
T	O	U	G	H	I	E	■	A	V	I	D	I	T	Y
A	R	M	H	O	L	E	■	R	E	T	A	K	E	N
L	O	P	■	W	E	D	■	I	R	F	■	O	R	A
O	T	I	S	■	S	C	E	N	T	■	S	L	A	P
S	H	E	E	T	■	A	L	E	U	T	I	A	N	S
S	Y	R	A	C	U	S	E	■	R	A	T	I	T	E
■	■	■	■	E	L	E	G	A	N	T	■	■	■	■
T	Y	B	A	L	T	■	I	S	S	U	A	B	L	E
H	E	A	D	L	I	N	E	S	■	M	I	L	E	R
E	A	R	S	■	M	E	S	O	N	■	M	A	N	N
B	R	R	■	C	A	W	■	R	A	D	■	D	I	E
A	N	I	M	A	T	E	■	T	I	R	A	D	E	S
B	E	N	A	R	E	S	■	E	V	I	D	E	N	T
E	D	G	I	E	S	T	■	D	E	P	O	R	T	S

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6/19/06

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're influential, persuasive and beguiling. Others react strongly to you. (You have the power to inspire them if you so choose.) Once you set your goal on something, you're doggedly persistent. Challenges galvanize you into action. In your mid-30s, you become much more dramatic for the rest of your life. The year ahead is wonderfully social and favors all relationships.

Birthdate of: Paula Abdul, singer/dancer; Gena Rowlands, actress; Kathleen Turner, actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Start this week off with the determination to be as clear as possible in all your communications with others. The stars will help you do this. (Remember to listen as much as you talk.)

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): It's important to get on top of your financial scene. Figure out what you own; figure out what you owe.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): The Sun is still in your sign for a few more days. What do you really want? Now is the time to go after it. Don't worry about putting yourself first

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): This is still a time of preparation for you. You're waiting in the wings for your moment to act. Take time to be alone and figure out what you want to do in the month ahead.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Friends are very important to you now. Socialize as much as possible. Accept all invitations and extend a few yourself.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Your relations with bosses, parents and authority figures are important now. What do these people expect from you? What do you have to do to keep them happy?

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Make plans to expand your world in some way. Get further education, further training or see more of the world through travel. Life is short (and fat).

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Your impulse to try to improve yourself in some way is right on the money. Sort out any fuzzy details about shared ownership and responsibilities that you have for others.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): For a partnership to work you must be as good for your partner as he or she is for you. What can you do to improve your closest friendships and relationships?

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Because you have a lot of energy to get things done now, get busy! Capitalize on this opportunity. (Sometimes we play; sometimes we work.)

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): It's important to realize you can just do your own thing. For starters, you were born 50 years ahead of your time. You broke the mold. Don't worry about trying to be like everyone else.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Home, family and your domestic scene are of prime importance to you now. This is where you need to put your energy.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

		5				6		
	6		9		1		7	
1		8	7		2	9		4
	1	7	2		3	4	8	
	5	9	8		6	7	1	
2		3	5		7	1		6
	8		6		4		3	
		6				2		

Difficulty Level ★

6/19

©2006 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

		5				6		
	6		9		1		7	
1		8	7		2	9		4
	1	7	2		3	4	8	
	5	9	8		6	7	1	
2		3	5		7	1		6
	8		6		4		3	
		6				2		

Difficulty Level ★

Kiddie talent tilts are for children, not little adults

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

EARLIER THIS MONTH, Channel 2's "Star Circle Summer Kids Quest" held its finals, with surviving bets **Julijo, Mika, Darius, Cheska** and **Quintin** being showcased in special production numbers that displayed the acting, singing and/or dancing skills they had honed during the kiddie talent search.

Some viewers expected cute Mika to romp off with the tilt's top prize, but viewers' votes propelled her only up to second place, and it was perky Quintin who was declared the yearly search's best and most popular new child star for 2006.

Quintin did stand out because the lively kid looked different, had long hair, and performed with greater gusto than the others. Was it this uniqueness that had won the most votes in Quintin's favor?

If so, it sends out a clear signal to other kiddie star wannabes that the standard *tisoy* looks and *porma* projection are no longer a sure-fire formula for success on local TV.

Mika sang relatively well, but performed in a rote, vapid manner in her production number. So did Darius as a little James Bond and Julijo as a wee "lady-killer." They "danced" in their numbers, but had to be guided every step of the way by adult dancers.

Cheska was relatively livelier in her "underwater" showcase, so she came off second best in our book.

Another problem we had with most of the finalists was the fact that they were supposed to sing, but did so only in a weak, tentative, monotone manner.

If kiddie talent tilts *really* want to impress viewers, they shouldn't force their finalists to come across as total performers. Let them focus on the performance mode they're really good at, so they can ride high on their strengths, not their weaknesses.

Very few kids are as multi-talented as **Shirley Temple**, so we shouldn't require other child talents to measure up to that high standard.

On point of presentation, the kid guest's finals were less than choice because they required most of the finalists to perform like little adults. A wee James Bond and a pint-sized *babaero*? Oh, please.

We also found all those adult dancers prancing around the child talents quite off-putting. Why couldn't they have used child dancers, to sustain the juvenile quality and freshness of the production?

The jurors similarly tended to be too complimentary with their reactions to the finalists' performances, which really weren't all that great.

And some other adults involved in the show barked up the wrong psychological tree when they kept making "sexy" comments about some of the little boys who performed— *"Paglaki mo, ang mga girls, mababaliw sa 'yo."— "Kinikilig ako sa 'yo, sa akin ka na lang."— "Hahabulin ito ng mga chicks in the future!"* — "Down, girls!"

The show's credits informed viewers that a child psychologist was attached to the competition. Didn't he or she inform the people behind the show that this is no way to relate to and "encourage" child performers?

Despite these low points, we hope that the child talents showcased in the kiddie tilt do launch successful careers in show business. But they and their mentors should always remember that they are *children*, so they should be treated and showcased as such.

On Hallmark Channel

THE FOUR episodes of "Child of Our Time 2005" on the Hallmark Channel are: "Identity Crisis," featuring a troubling year for the children in the series, as they struggle to come to grips with their identity.

"State of Play": Prof. **Robert Winston** looks at how the children spend their time, what they do for fun and what they get out of the things they do. The episode even studies what the kids are gaining from their exposure to new technology, and how playing computer games will affect them when they go to school full-time.

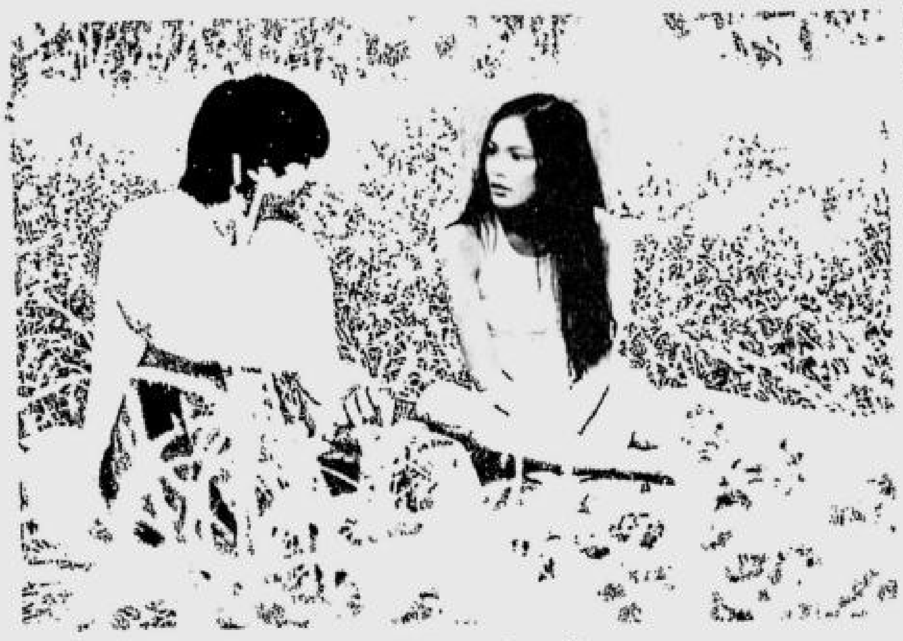
"What Are Dads For?": An etch-a-sketch experiment reveals how moms and dads approach things in completely different ways.

"Tried and Tested": The children go to school for the first time, and the episode follows the progress of seven of them during their first term.

Telecasts are at 7:55 p.m. on Sundays, with replays at 3:15 p.m. on Mondays.

Gina Pareño slugs it out . . .

From page A2-1



YUL Servo and Julia Clarete in "Sa Ilalim ng Cogon"

features and 18 short films from the Philippines, according to Sanchez.

The two-and-a-half-hour film about a group of TV journalists who stumbles upon a scoop on the late filmmaker Lino Brocka, is a product of the first-ever Cinema One Originals Digital Film Festival in October last year.

"Brocka" is also invited to this year's HIFF, Leeds International Film Festival in UK and the Roshd International Film Festival in Tehran, Iran.

It will have a local theater run at SM Megamall and SM Manila this week (June 21-25) along with other Cinema One Originals films and Pinoy classics in a festival titled "Orig Na, Classic Pa."

BE PART OF THE PHENOMENON!

if you've only seen it once...
you've only begun
to break the code

Directed by Oscar Best Director Ron Howard
and starring Oscar Best Actor Tom Hanks

still showing

at Robinsons Movieworld
galleria • metro east • novaliches
sta. rosa • dasmariñas • imus
starmills, pampanga • iloilo

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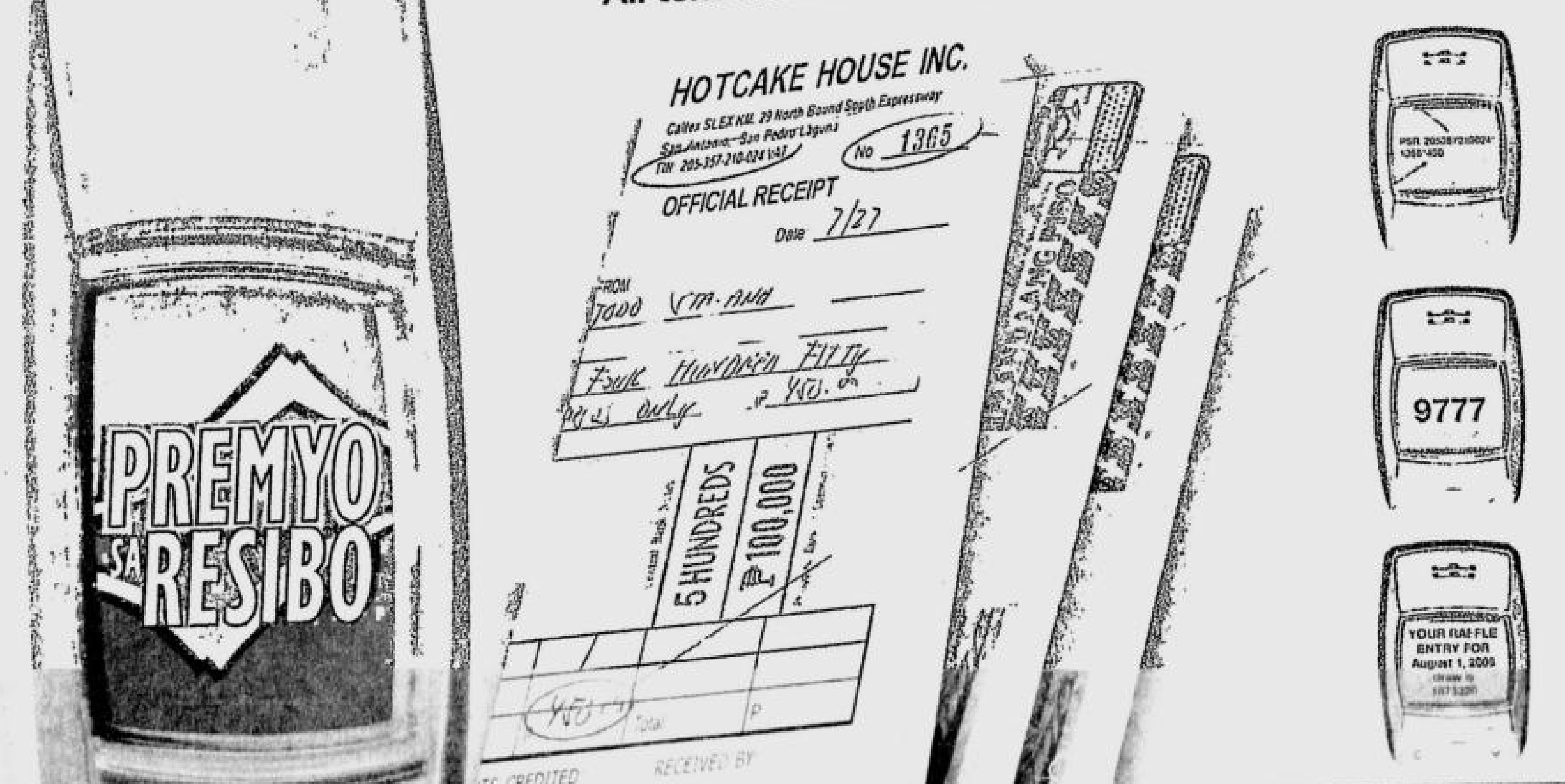
For SCREENING SCHEDULES,
pls. call our CINEMA ACCESS: 635-5555
or visit us: www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

PARA MAGING MILYONARYO, HINGIN ANG RESIBO

LINGGO LINGGO
MARAMING INSTANT
MILYONARYO!

HURRY! Start sending text entries NOW!
All text entries starting June 1 are valid for the first draw on AUGUST 1.



NAPAKADALING SUMALI!

I-text ang keyword PSR kasama ang mga detalye ng resibo :
PSR <space> Tax Identification Number (TIN) of establishment that issued the receipt * Receipt Number * Receipt Amount

Send to 9777 (SMART, TALK N' TEXT & ADDICT MOBILE). Every P100 value of the receipt entitles you to one text-raffle entry. As an added bonus, you get an extra text-raffle entry for remaining fractions P50 and above. *For example, you can text 5 times and be entitled to 5 raffle entries using the same P450 receipt details, but only 4 entries for a P449 receipt.*

The cost per text entry is only P1.50 (introductory price). All text-raffle entries will be issued a unique raffle entry number.

The more entries you send, the higher the chances of becoming a millionaire!

Schedule of Draws

- Receipts issued should fall within the weekly period prior to the draw date to qualify except for the first draw. Weekly draw day is every Tuesday and deadline of text-raffle entries is 12:00 midnight of the Monday before the draw.

	Draw Dates	Qualified Receipt Dates
1st draw	August 1, 2006	June 1 to July 31, 2006
2nd draw	August 8, 2006	August 1 to 7, 2006
3rd draw	August 15, 2006	August 8 to 14, 2006

Succeeding weekly draw periods will be announced regularly in tv, radio and print ads.

- The draw of the winning raffle entry number/s shall be televised live on the scheduled draw date.

Claiming of Prize

- P1 Million per winner. There will be five (5) winners on the first draw.
- Winning raffle entry number/s shall be published in newspapers.
- Winners will be notified via text and a call on his/her cellphone as to where and how to claim the prize.
- To claim prize, winner must present the following:
  1. Original copy of the receipt used for the text-raffle entry. The date of which must be within the coverage period for that particular draw.
  2. Saved notification text message on the cellphone.
  3. Two valid IDs.
  4. Authorization letter (Applicable only if the receipt is in the name of a company and not under the claimant's name).
- Prize unclaimed after 60 days from date of notification shall be forfeited.

Valid Receipt Samples:
Official Receipt
Sales/Cash Invoice
Cash Register Machine/POS Receipt

Receipt should have minimum amount of P100.

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BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE PHILIPPINES 1904
PAGCOR

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Para sa karagdagang kaalaman, tumawag sa (02) 338 -9777

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www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

MOVIES/SCHEDULES/PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

GALLERIA 632-9116

1 THE DA VINCI CODE • THX
12:30 3:40 6:50 10:00

2 KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00

3 THE FAST AND THE FURIOUS 3
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

4 GARFIELD 2: A TAIL OF TWO KITTIES
11:20 1:25 3:30 5:35 7:40 9:45

5 LAKE HOUSE
11:00 1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50

6 TAKE THE LEAD
12.00 2:30 5.00 7:30 10.00

7 X-MEN 3
12.40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

8 AN AMERICAN HAUNTING
1:20 3:30 5:40 7:50 10:00

9 CARS
11:40 2:15 4:50 7:25 10:00

10 THE OMEN
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 THE FAST AND THE FURIOUS 10:10 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

2 KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

3 GARFIELD 2
12:20 2:20 4:20 6:20 8:25 10:00

4 LAKE HOUSE
10:10 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

5 CARS 10:30 12:40 2:50
TAKE THE LEAD 5:30 7:40 10:00

6 THE OMEN 10:10 12:30 2:50
X-MEN 3 5:30 7:40 10:00

7 AN AMERICAN HAUNTING
10:20 12:20 2:20 4:20 6:20 8:25 10:00

METRO EAST 682-8193 • 682-8199

1 TAKE THE LEAD 11:00 1:20 3:40
THE DA VINCI CODE 6:00 9:00

2 CARS
1:00 3:40 6:20 9:00

3 KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO
11:05 1:35 4:05 6:35 9:05

4 THE FAST AND THE FURIOUS 3
12:05 2:15 4:25 6:35 9:00

5 THE OMEN 12:25 2:35 4:45
X-MEN 3 6:50 9:00

6 LAKE HOUSE
11:50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10

7 GARFIELD 2
12:30 2:40 4:50 7:00 9:10

8 AN AMERICAN HAUNTING
12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00

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ENTERTAINMENT

RACHEL Hurd-Wood in "An American Haunting"

A spooky spectral siege

REVIEW

By Oliver M. Pulumbarit
Contributor

WHILE "AN AMERICAN HAUNTING" is far from the level of spine-tingling supernatural classics of past decades, it knows how to elicit and exploit dread. It bears some resemblance to the recent "The Exorcism of Emily Rose," as far as its short debunking angle and its supposed reality-inspired tale are concerned. Based on the book "The Bell Witch: An American Haunting," the film adaptation by director-screenwriter Courtney Solomon shows mastery over mood most of the time, but that solid atmosphere gets blemished by some technical elements in certain portions.

Even so, the tale, which claims to be among a number of possible theories behind the occurrences, recounts the Tennessee-based Bell family's ordeal in frightening detail, as narrated by an old letter that was recently discovered in the present day. No, this definitely isn't "The Lake House." There's an uneasy parallel that seems to be forming between 1818 and the present, as two teenage girls from their respective eras begin experiencing recurring nightmares of menacing apparitions.

Flashbacks

The flashbacks, which make up most of the film, become a tad repetitive at times. But they emphasize the helplessness of the Bell family, believed by some to be cursed by a vengeful witch. There's efficacy in the casting and performances of Donald Sutherland and Sissy Spacek, as terrified parents of the supernaturally victimized Betsy (Rachel Hurd-Wood). There's perfunctory skepticism, however, in the form of Betsy's young teacher, Richard Powell (James D'Arcy), who soon discovers that there are real mysteries afoot, ones that can't easily be explained by available sciences or metaphysics.

The big, climactic revelation on the nature of the violent poltergeist is a puzzler at first, but it ultimately makes sense. It connects all the horrific goings-on to something that happened to a character in the past, and that suppressed trauma apparently triggered the inexplicable insanity that shattered the Bells' tranquility. There's universality to the horror tale, as legends in many cultures mention similar doppelgangers and entities with very vague intentions.

The playful, swooping camerawork intensely creates the frenetic perspective of a floating, invisible phantom in many sequences. The special effects used on a ghostly character don't offer as much visual panache, though, as the spirit looked too bright, attractive and peaceful to be really frightening. Another thing that sticks out is the scraggly font style used to identify locales in the past. The informal-looking text looks a little forced and distracting. But "An American Haunting," despite its obvious flaws, can jolt, jar, and mislead one into looking the other way, while planting clues that build up into a big surprise or two.

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AMERICAN HAUNTING 1:05/3:15/5.25/7:35/9 45
THE DA VINCI CODE 7 00/10 00
X MEN 3 12 30/2 40/4 50
THE LAKE HOUSE 1:20/3:30/5.40/7.50/10.00
OMEN 666 12:00/2:30/5.00/7.35/10.00
THE FAST & THE FURIOUS 3 1:00/3:15/5.30/7 45/10.00
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THE LAKE HOUSE 12 45/2 55/5.05/7:15/9 25

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1 KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO 12.05/2:15/4:25/6:35/8.45
4 AMERICAN HAUNTING 12:00/2·10/4:20/6:30/8 40
2 THE LAKE HOUSE 12:20/2.20/4:15/6 25/8.35
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FEEDBACK

Box of burden

From Richard Allan Aquino of Malabon:

I agree with Ms. Cathy Uy's letter about SkyCable's "add box." My family was informed that SkyCable needed to enforce the add box to reduce illegal connections, so only paying customers will be able to access the programs through that box that acts like a pay-per-view machine.

Couldn't they have thought of other ways to implement this? The box has to be plugged in to an electricity source, so it's an additional cost to the subscribers.

The "add box" only seems like an additional box of burden to SkyCable's loyal subscribers.

Ruffa readies $17,000 gown for Star Awards

GLAM GIRL. Ruffa Gutierrez says she misses working in Manila. RUDY ESPERAS

By Nini Valera

RUFFA GUTIERREZ IS SET to wear a $17,000 gown, and Boy Abunda is expected to complement her glam with his brand of gab as the two host this year's 22nd Star Awards on June 30 at the Grand Ballroom of the Philippine Plaza Hotel.

Gutierrez, who flew in recently from her home in Istanbul, Turkey—where she lives with her millionaire husband Ylmaz Bektas and their children Lorin and Venice—told Inquirer Entertainment that she was looking forward to the event.

"I miss my job here," she said. "I've been in show biz since I was 14, and my husband understands this passion."

Anne Curtis will be the show's anchor.

ARG Entertainment, producer of the awards show, earlier announced that the proceedings would combine the Golden Globe and Oscars ceremonies.

Bong Ferrer will direct the show, which will be aired over Studio 23 at 10:30 p .m. on June 30.

Organizers of the Star Awards, led by Philippine Movie Press Club president Fernan de Guzman, held a press conference on Thursday to announce that Armida Siguion-Reyna is the Ulirang Artisa Awardee 2006.

The nominees in all categories were also announced:

Movie of the Year

"Ako, Legal Wife...Mano Po 4" (Regal Entertainment); "Blue Moon" (Regal); "Dubai" (Star Cinema); "La Visa Loca" (Unitel Pictures); "Nasaan Ka Man" (Star Cinema).

Movie Director of the Year

Joel Lamangan for "Blue Moon"; Joel Lamangan, "Ako, Legal Wife"; Cholo Laurel, "Nasaan Ka Man"; Mark Meily, "La Visa Loca"; Rory Quintos, "Dubai."

Digital Film of the Year

"Ang Daan Patungong Kalimugtong" (Sampay Bakod/Cine Larga); "Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros" (ufo Pictures); "ICU Bed No. 7" (Media Revolution Film Productions); "Mga Pusang Gala" (Erasto Productions); Masahista (Gee Films).

Digital Film Director of the Year

Brillante Mendoza for "Masahista"; Ellen Ongkeko-Marfil, "Mga Pusang Gala"; Aureus Solito, "Maximo Oliveros"; Mes de Guzman, "Kalimugtong"; Rica Arevalo, "ICU."

Movie Actress of the Year

Zsa Zsa Padilla for "Ako, Legal Wife"; Claudine Barretto, "Nasaan Ka Man"; Cherry Pie Picache, "Bikini Open" (Seiko Films); Irma Adlawan, "Mga Pusang Gala"; Jennylyn Mercado, "Blue Moon."

Movie Actor of the Year

Ricky Davao, "Mga Pusang Gala"; Eddie Garcia, "ICU"; Aga Muhlach, "Dubai"; Diether Ocampo, "Nasaan Ka Man"; Robin Padilla, "La Visa Loca."

Supporting Actress

Gloria Diaz for Nasaan Ka Man; Hilda Koronel, "Nasaan Ka Man"; Cherry Pie Picache, "Ako, Legal Wife"; Boots Anson-Roa, "Blue Moon"; Rufa Mae Quinto, "Ako, Legal Wife."

Supporting Actor

John Lloyd Cruz for "Dubai"; Johnny Delgado, "La Visa Loca"; Emilio Garcia, "Dilim" (Topel Lee Films); Christopher de Leon, "Blue Moon"; Dennis Trillo, "Blue Moon."

Child Performer

Annalyn Bangsi-il for "Kalimugtong"; Sam Bumatay, "Mulawin The Movie" (GMA Films and Regal Entertainment);

Elijah Castillo, "Pepot Artista" (Buruka Films); BJ Forbes, "Exodus" (Imus Productions); Miguel Tanfelix, "Mulawin."

New Actress

Ryza Cenon for "Love Struck" (GMA Films); Paw Diaz, "Can This Be Love" (Star Cinema); Roxanne Guinoo, "Can This Be Love"; LJ Reyes, "Love Struck"; Marian Rivera, "Enteng Kabisote" (M-Zet Films).

New Actor

Ryan Agoncillo for "Kutob" (Canary Films); Joross Gamboa, "Can This Be Love"; Nathan Lopez, "Maximo Oliveros"; Raphael Martinez, "Can This Be Love"; Mike Tan, "Love Struck"; JC De Vera, "Ako, Legal Wife."

Editor

Danny Annonuevo and Ike Veneracion for "La Visa Loca"; Aleks Castaneda, "Exodus"; Marya Ignacio, "Blue Moon"; Marya Ignacio, "Nasaan Ka Man"; Marya Ignacio, "Dubai."

Original Screenplay

Allan T. Gamo for Blue Moon; Ricky Lee and Shaira Melba Salvador, "Dubai"; Ricky Lee and

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Ruffa readies $17,000 gown for Star Awards

From page A3-1

Rafael Hidalgo, "Nasaan Ka Man"; Jose Javier Reyes, "Can This Be Love"; Mark Meilly, "La Visa Loca."

Cinematographer

Richard Padernal for "Mulawin The Movie"; Charlie Peralta, "Nasaan Ka Man"; Charlie Peralta, "Dubai"; Lyle Sacris, "Exodus"; Lyle Sacris, "Blue Moon."

Production Designer

Rodell Cruz for "Mulawin The Movie"; Joy Cuyson, "Nasaan Ka Man"; Joey Luna, "Blue Moon"; Norman Regalado, "La Visa Loca"; Richard Somes "Exodus."

Musical Scorer

Von de Guzman for "Blue Moon"; Vince de Jesus, "Let The Love Begin" (GMA Films); Lutgardo Labad, "Mulawin The Movie"; Jessie Lasatin, "Dubai"; Jesse Lucas, "Can This Be Love."

Sound Engineer

Ditoy Aguila for "Exodus"; Albert Michael Idioma, "Ako, Legal Wife"; Albert Michael Idioma, "Kutob"; Albert Michael Idioma, "Blue Moon"; Addisa Tabong, "Nasaan Ka Man."

Original Theme Song

"Ikaw Lamang" from "Dubai," composed by Ogie Alcasid and interpreted by Gary Valenciano; "Kung Nasaan Ka Man" from "Nasaan Ka Man," Louie Ocampo/Christian Bautista; "Ikaw Nga" from "Mulawin The Movie," South Border/Jonalyn Viray; "Kasalan Nga Ba?" from "Kutob," Arnie Mendaros/Thor; "Love Never Fades" from "Exodus," Von de Guzman/Sarah Geronimo and Eric Santos.

Darling of the Press

Ogie Alcasid, Kris Aquino, Raphael Martinez, Ara Mina and Sylvia Sanchez.

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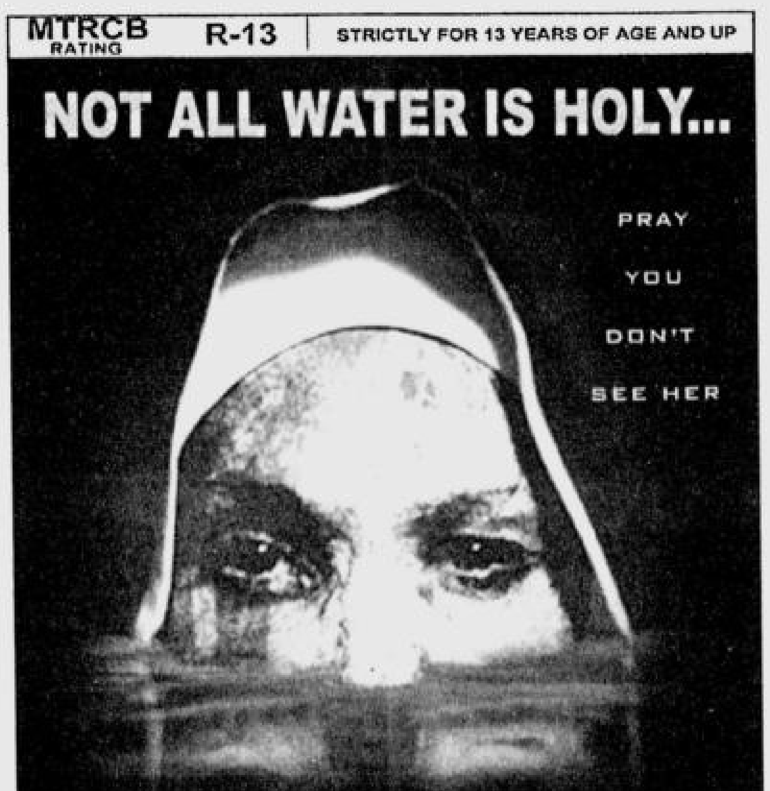

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CINEMA 5	LAKE HOUSE	10:30, 12:50, 3:10, 5:30, 7:50, 10:10	PG13

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	4 TAKE THE LEAD	5 THE INSIDE MAN	6 THE LAKE HOUSE	7 THE OMEN
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 THE OMEN	2 THE LAKE HOUSE		
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX CARS 1:05, 3:30, 5:55, 8:20, 10:40 GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX THE LAKE HOUSE 2:40, 4:50, 7:00, 9:10, 11:20 GUARANTEED SEATS		
	3 THE OMEN 2:00, 4:20, 6:40, 9:00, 11:20 GUARANTEED SEATS	4 INSIDE MAN 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	5 GARFIELD 1:25, 3:20, 5:15, 7:10, 9:05, 11:00 GUARANTEED SEATS	
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ROUNDUP

War vs poverty

SAN FRANCISCO—YAHOO HAS joined rock superstar Bono's war on poverty, using its Internet prowess to transform the U2 singer-endorsed One.org website into an online platform for community organizing.

The website went live on Friday, according to Meg Garlinghouse, head of the Yahoo for Good division that had a team of engineers and designers "scrum" for several months to overhaul www.one.org.

Co-founded by Bono, One: The Campaign to Make Poverty History was US coalition made up of more than two million people and scores of humanitarian organizations united to combat AIDS and extreme poverty.

Among those listed as supporters of the campaign was Microsoft Computer co-founder Bill Gates.

The "Yahoo-powered" website includes features such as podcasts, blogs, a map that reveals information about local groups of kindred spirits, and photos of those who have signed a pledge to fight poverty. *AFP*

On Star Movies

Kevin Bacon, Matt Dillon, and Kyra Sedgwick topbill "Loverboy," tonight's feature on Star Movies Presents at 9 p.m. The movie tells of brilliant, beautiful and financially secure Emily Stoll (Sedgwick) who only needed one thing to make her truly happy—a child with whom she could share life's wonders.

***

"Marked For Death," which airs on June 21 at 9 p.m., features a retired DEA agent returning to his bucolic hometown only to discover that a dangerous drug lord has taken over. Steven Seagal, Basil Wallace, and Keith David stars.

***

Tonight at 10, Star World presents "Kevin Hill," the story of a hip, music industry attorney enjoying the usual playboy trappings. But when Kevin is given custody of his 10-month-old cousin Sarah, his world goes from changing girlfriends to changing diapers.

9-11 tragedy film

British film director and screenwriter Paul Greengrass reconstructs the story of one of the hijacked planes that marked the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks in the movie "United 93," which opens in local theaters on July 5.

"United 93" is a tribute to the passengers of the doomed United Airlines Flight 93, the fourth hijacked plane in the 9-11 tragedy.

The movie premiered at New York's Tribeca Film Festival and was hailed at the Cannes Film Festival where it was screened for competition.

Now on video

The video of the controversial independent film "Bilog" by digital film director Crisaldo Pablo is now in the market. The movie, which stars Ara Mina and Jan Marini, tells the stories of Filipinos struggling to make it in the urban jungle.

Created by Grupong Sinehan, it also stars Xeno, Allyna, Reiven Bulado, Craig Alcantara, Apollo Jones, and Christopher Canizares.

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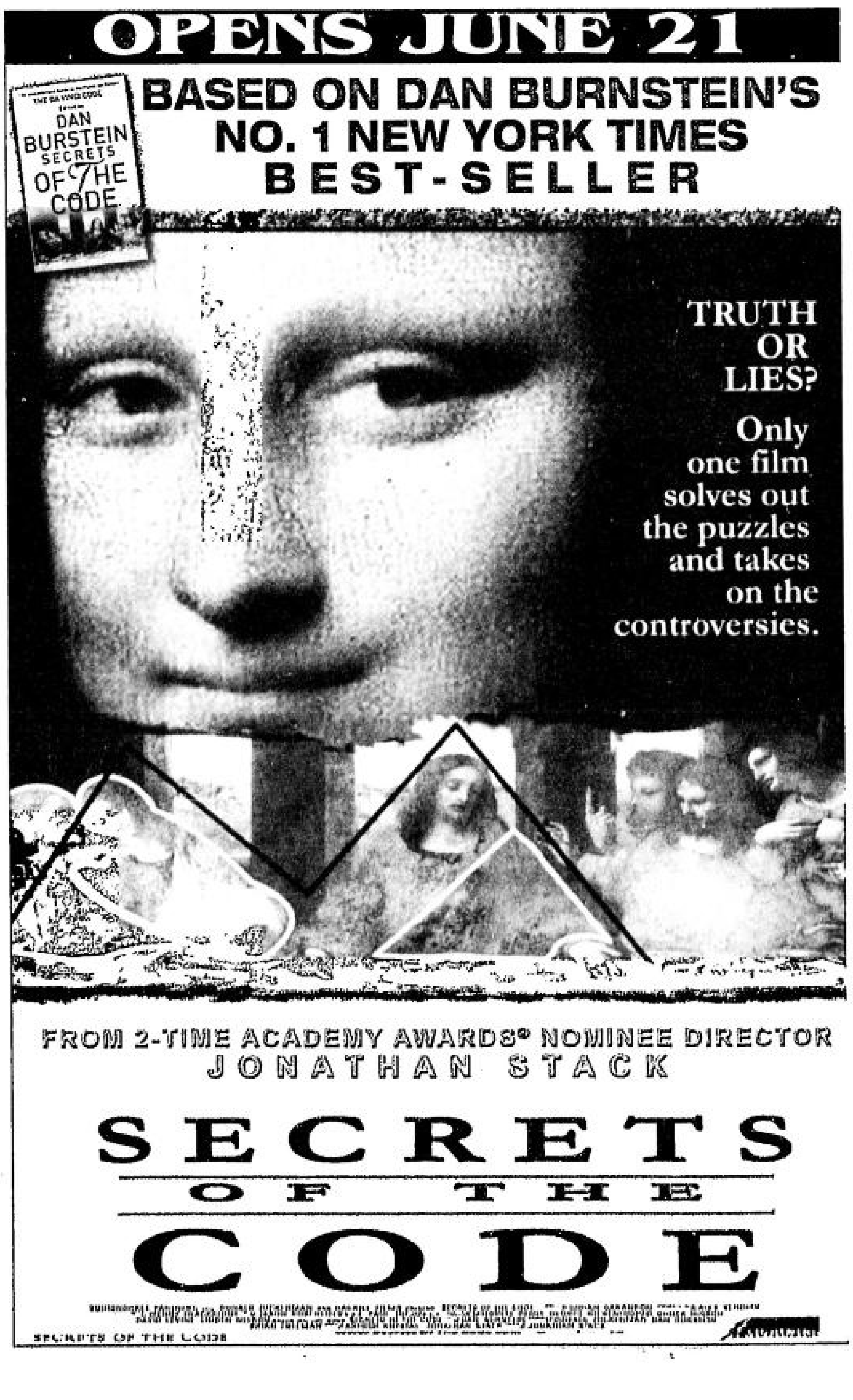
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CENTERSTAGE
RESERVED
THE OMEN
LAKE HOUSE
FAST AND FURIOUS 3
CARS
GARFIELD 2
AMERICAN HAUNTING

THE PODIUM
CINEMA 1
LAKE HOUSE
CINEMA 2
GARFIELD 2

SM NORTH EDSA
XMEN III
CARS
KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO
FAST AND FURIOUS 3
GARFIELD 2
THE OMEN
LAKE HOUSE
AMERICAN HAUNTING

SM CITY BICUTAN
FAST AND FURIOUS 3
KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO
LAKE HOUSE
GARFIELD 2

SM MEGACINEMA
LAKE HOUSE
XMEN III
FAST AND FURIOUS 3
CARS
GARFIELD 2
AMERICAN HAUNTING
M:I:III
TAKE THE LEAD
KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO
THE OMEN
MANAY PO
INSIDE MAN

SM CITY SOUTHMALL
FAST AND FURIOUS 3
KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO
THE OMEN
CARS
TAKE THE LEAD
GARFIELD 2
XMEN III
THE OMEN
AMERICAN HAUNTING

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
AMERICAN HAUNTING
TAKE THE LEAD
MANAY PO
XMEN III
GARFIELD
KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO
FAST AND FURIOUS 3
CARS
LAKE HOUSE
THE OMEN
ALL ABOUT LOVE
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SM CITY DASMARINAS
FAST AND FURIOUS 3
KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO
BANDIDAS
THE OMEN

SM CITY STA. MESA
FAST AND FURIOUS 3
LAKE HOUSE
CARS
AMERICAN HAUNTING
KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO
THE OMEN
XMEN III
MANAY PO
GARFIELD 2
ALL ABOUT LOVE

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THE OMEN
TAKE THE LEAD
LAKE HOUSE
XMEN III
CARS
FAST AND FURIOUS 3
INSIDE MAN
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ALL ABOUT LOVE
MANAY PO
GARFIELD 2

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FAST AND FURIOUS 3
GARFIELD 2
LAKE HOUSE
CARS
THE OMEN
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LAKE HOUSE
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GARFIELD 2

movietime movietime

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Garfield follows his owner, Jon, to England, where he is mistaken as the royal cat, who inherited a castle. Garfield, of course, enjoys the royal treatment, but he is in big danger. Lord Dargis is willing to do everything just to get rid of the royal cat, so that he can turn the castle into a tourist spot. Watch how Garfield saves himself from that mistaken identity.
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AMERICAN HAUNTING
GARFIELD 2
FAST AND FURIOUS 3
LAKE HOUSE
XMEN III
KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO
MANAY PO
CARS

SM CITY BATANGAS
ALL ABOUT LOVE
KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO
AQUAMARINE
ALL ABOUT LOVE

SM CITY LUCENA
SENTINEL
KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO
MANAY PO
ALL ABOUT LOVE

SM CITY CLARK
THE OMEN
LAKE HOUSE
FAST AND FURIOUS 3
MANAY PO
KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO
GARFIELD 2

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LAKE HOUSE
ALL ABOUT LOVE
GARFIELD 2
MANAY PO
CARS
KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO

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CARS
XMEN III
THE OMEN
KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO

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XMEN III
FAST AND FURIOUS 3
THE OMEN
LAKE HOUSE
SILENT HILL
ALL ABOUT LOVE
KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO
GARFIELD 2

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CHAOS
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ALL ABOUT LOVE
MANAY PO
XMEN III
RESERVED
THE OMEN

SM CITY DAVAO
XMEN III
GARFIELD 2
KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO
THE OMEN
LAKE HOUSE
CARS

SM CITY DARAYAN
CARS
KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO
FAILURE TO LAUNCH
XMEN III

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ERTAINMENT

Birth experience 'terrifying'

ANGELINA Jolie

RUSHES

NEW YORK —ANGELINA JOLIE, IN her first US interview since the birth of her daughter last month, says the experience was frightening.

She wasn't present at the birth of her two adopted kids, she said, so she was "just suddenly terrified" that her own baby wasn't going to take a first breath. "I just wanted to hear her cry," the 31-year-old actress says in an interview to air Tuesday (Wednesday in Manila) on CNN's "Anderson Cooper 360."

Jolie gave birth to Shiloh Nouvel Jolie-Pitt on May 27 at a private clinic in the resort town of Walvis Bay in Namibia. The baby, healthy and weighing 7 pounds, was delivered by Caesarean section. In excerpts of the interview, released exclusively to The Associated Press on Friday, Jolie says Brad Pitt, 42, was in the operating room for the delivery.

The couple have since left Namibia with their newborn daughter and two older children: 16-month-old Zahara and 4-year-old Maddox. AP

Speaking of Brad...

We received this little opinion piece in the e-mail, claiming that Brad Pitt had imbibed the personality of every girl he had ever been with. The piece was illustrated with photographs, previously published and recently published again in some fan magazines.

The piece noted that Brad took on Juliette Lewis' "bohemian appearance," Gwyneth Paltrow's slouch, Jennifer Aniston's highlights and, now, Angelina Jolie's world peace ambassador status.

Speaking of Namibia...

WINDHOEK, Namibia—Pregnant pop diva Britney Spears may follow in the steps of Hollywood couple Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie and have her baby in Namibia, state media said Friday.

"Deputy Tourism Minister Leon Jooste confirmed that he received a telephonic inquiry from Spears' office to have her second baby born in Namibia," the Namibian Broadcasting Corporation (NBC) said in a news report.

A tourism ministry official told Agence France Presse, "Our office received an inquiry from the staff of Britney Spears." He did not elaborate.

The 24-year-old star is six months pregnant with her second child with husband Kevin Federline. *AFP*

PITT with past and present loves

BRITNEY Spears then (below) and now (above)

Speaking of repeat moms...

There's a new baby in the home of Paolo and Suzi Entrata—that's Antonella, coming after Leona, 3, and Jade, 1—and the third-time mom says it still feels like the first time. Morever, she feels like a child again! "*Totoo pala na* you'll always be your parents' baby," Suzi says. "No matter how grown up you are, you'll always be a child to them."

Cueshé quip

Accepting their Favorite Group and Favorite Artist trophy at the recent 1st MYX Awards, the band Cueshé had a word of advice for aspiring groups—like themselves not too long ago: "Believe in yourself and believe in your dreams."

That guy Giamatti

Paul Giamatti of "Sideways" is a star at last in "Lady in the Water," coming soon to Metro theaters. Fame is not having an easy time sitting with him: "I like being 'that guy' instead of 'THAT GUY.' I have some notoriety, but that's enough I get a lot of recognition from the weird mailman. It can stop right there. I still want to be the guy who can get on the subway and check out the freaks."

Wow...I mean, wow!

"American Idol" fanatic Hugh Pedron got to see the show's recent finals at the Kodak Theater in Hollywood, after winning a trivia contest in Manila conducted by Star World. "I feel like I was the one who walked away the winner," he says. "I can't wait till the show comes back next season."

HUGH Pedron with Constantine Maroulis, "Idol" finalist last year

Three-way treat

LOS ANGELES—A Hollywood studio is planning a political drama starring three Oscar-winning actors—Tom Hanks, Julia Roberts and Philip Seymour Hoffman, the industry daily Variety reported Friday.

"Charlie Wilson's War," set in the early 1980s, will tell the story of how a US politician and a CIA agent collaborate to secretly arm rebels in Soviet-occupied Afghanistan, Variety said.

The movie will be directed by Mike Nichols, winner of the Best Director Oscar for the 1968 blockbuster "The Graduate." *AFP*

Stop that man!

TOKYO—Someone had better warn him not to jump on the seats.

Tom Cruise is hoping to impress his Japanese audience by chartering an entire 1,300-seater high speed "bullet" train to take 150 fans on a trip from Tokyo to Osaka on Wednesday.

The two-and-a-half hour train ride is part of the publicity campaign for "Mission: Impossible III," which premieres in Japan next week.

But any repeat of the actor's couch-jumping episode from the television chat show "Oprah" last year would likely irritate the hygiene-conscious Japanese, who are careful to keep their shoes away from upholstery. *Reuters*

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MOVIE GUIDE
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SHANG CINEPLEX
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2 LAKE HOUSE
3 CARS
FAST & THE FURIOUS 3 : TOKYO DRIFT
PREMIERE
GARFIELD 2

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2 LAKE HOUSE
3 THE INSIDE MAN

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Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449348)
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2 THE LAKE HOUSE

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2 KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO
3 GARFIELD-2
4 THE FAST & THE FURIOUS-3

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1 CARS
2 GARFIELD-2
3 KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO
4 LAKE HOUSE

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO
2 X-MEN-3

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2 GARFIELD-2
3 CARS
4 LAKE HOUSE

starmall EDSA-SHAW
(Mandaluyong). tel. 7268160
3 AMERICAN HAUNTING
4 CHAOS
5 KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO

metropolis star cinema
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2 KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO
3 LAKE HOUSE
4 CARS

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4 CARS

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3 OVER THE HEDGE

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3 X-MEN-3
4 MANAY PO

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2 THE SENTINEL
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

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3 X-MEN-3

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4 OVER THE HEDGE

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3 GARFIELD-2
4 X-MEN-3
5 THE FAST & THE FURIOUS-3
6 CARS
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8 KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO
9 AMERICAN HAUNTING
10 THE DA VINCI CODE

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2 MANAY PO

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2 ALL ABOUT LOVE

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2 GARFIELD-2
3 LAKE HOUSE
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5 THE OMEN 666

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Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto tel 7334228
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1 FAST & FURIOUS 3
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PG-13

2 GARFIELD 2
12:05, 2:15, 4:25, 6:35, 8:45, 10:50
GP

3 CARS
11:50, 2:30, 5:10, 7:50, 10:30
G

4 LAKE HOUSE
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GP

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CARS G 2:20,5:00,7:40,10:20	AMERICAN HAUNTING PG13 1:50,3:50,5.50,7:50,9:50	THE FAST AND THE FURIOUS: TOKYO DRIFT PG13 1:10,3:30,5:50, 8:10,10:30

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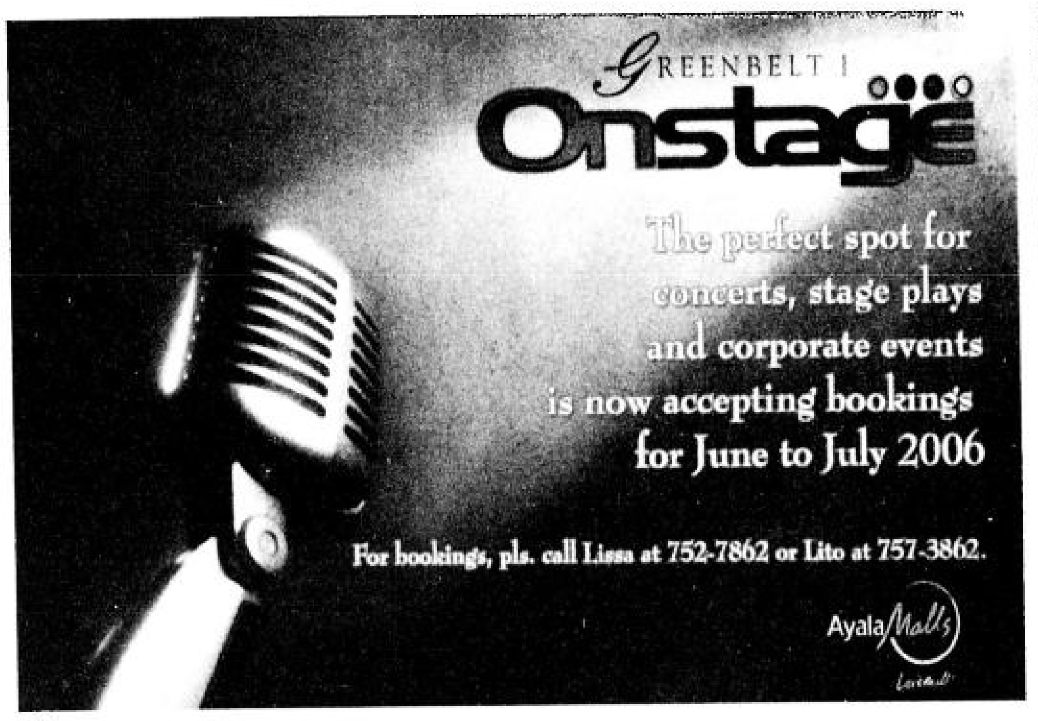
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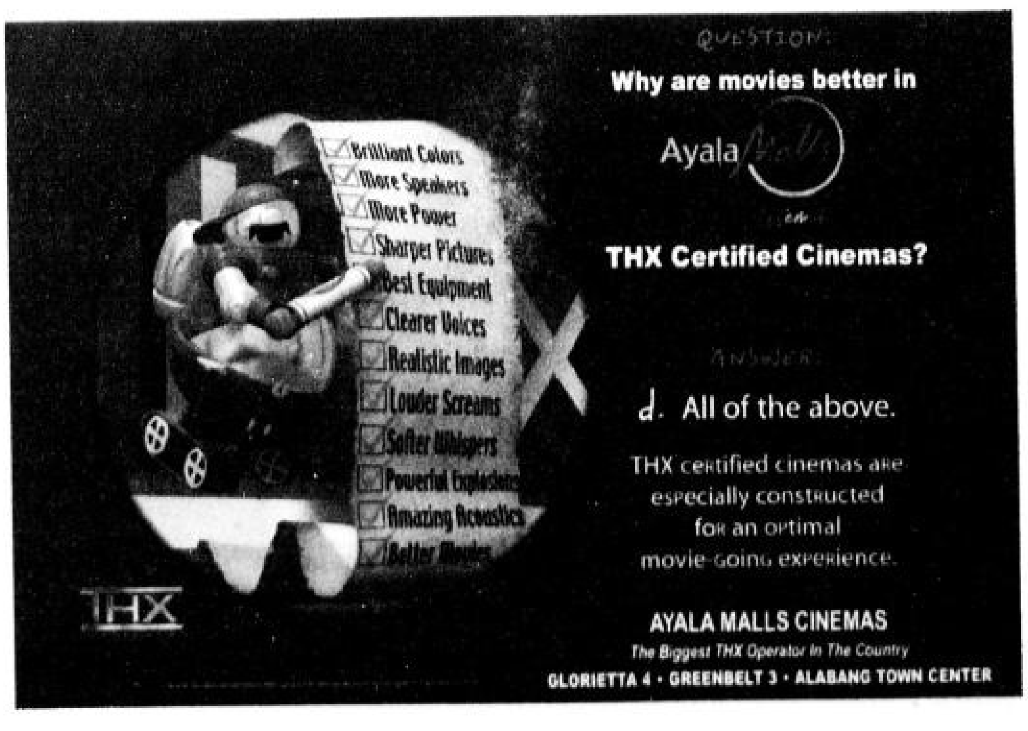
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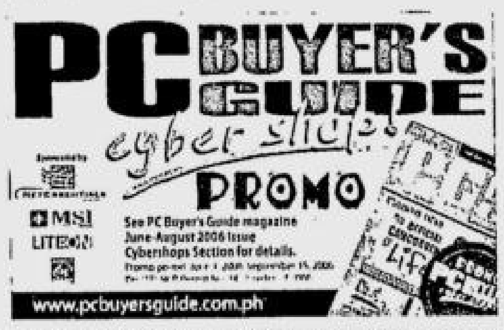

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Naia 3 opening seen in summer of '07

Agreement with Japanese contractor still hanging

By Daxim L. Lucas

THE MOTHBALLED TERMINAL 3 OF THE NINOY AQUINO INTERnational Airport (Naia) will stay shuttered until at least the middle of next year due to unresolved issues between the government and its Japanese builder.

According to a ranking government official familiar with the matter, the lack of a construction work agreement between the government and Takenaka Corp. meant that the controversial airport terminal would remain incomplete for the time being.

"The earliest it would open would be the summer of 2007," said the official, requesting anonymity, belying an earlier statement made by Trade Secretary Peter B. Favila that the terminal's start of commercial operations was imminent.

"The opening of Terminal 3 will take more

NAIA 3/ B4

WHAT'S INSIDE

Ramcar zaps rehab woes /B3

Exports seen growing 15% /B8

Big Thai firm eyes P4-B expansion in RP

By Abigail L. Ho

THAILAND'S PTT PUBLIC CO. LTD., THROUGH local subsidiary PTT Philippines Corp., is investing between P3.5 billion and P4 billion over the next five years to bankroll its expansion in the country.

In an interview Friday night, PTT executive vice president for commercial and international marketing Artasith Pothiapinyanvisuth said the investment would finance the establishment of 50 retail stations in Metro Manila and Cebu and the construction of a soon-to-be-operated Cebu depot that would support the oil firm's retail expansion.

About P1 billion would go to a planned liquefied petroleum gas storage and distribution facility with a capacity of 5,000 metric tons, he said.

PTT Philippines president and chief executive Siripong Phoungpaka said PTT was a big producer of LPG in Thailand, supplying both the domestic and international markets, including Vietnam, China and Cambodia.

In two years, he said the company would already have a production surplus, prompting it to look for other markets for its LPG as early as now.

"The Philippines is importing one million MT of LPG a year because local producers can only produce 300,000 MT. But PTT will have a surplus in two years. That's why we're thinking of putting up a facility here," he told reporters.

Artasith said the company was scouting for a good location for its LPG depot.

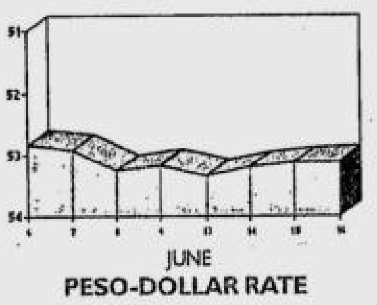
Apart from an LPG facility, he said PTT also planned to transfer one of its two lubricant-blending facilities in Thailand to the Philippines.

He said it would make more economic sense for the company to just blend the lubricants here instead of the current set-up, which entailed having to bring into the Philippines finished prod-

THAI/ B2

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



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P53.115 = $1

As of 5 p.m., June 16, 2006

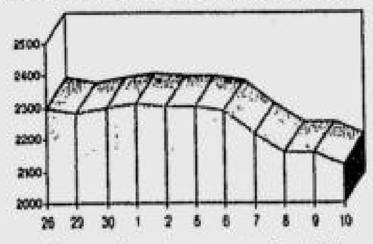
¥114.74 = $1

As of 5 p.m., June 16, 2006

GOLD: $574.30-574.80

per ounce Hong Kong, June 15, 2006

STOCK MARKET



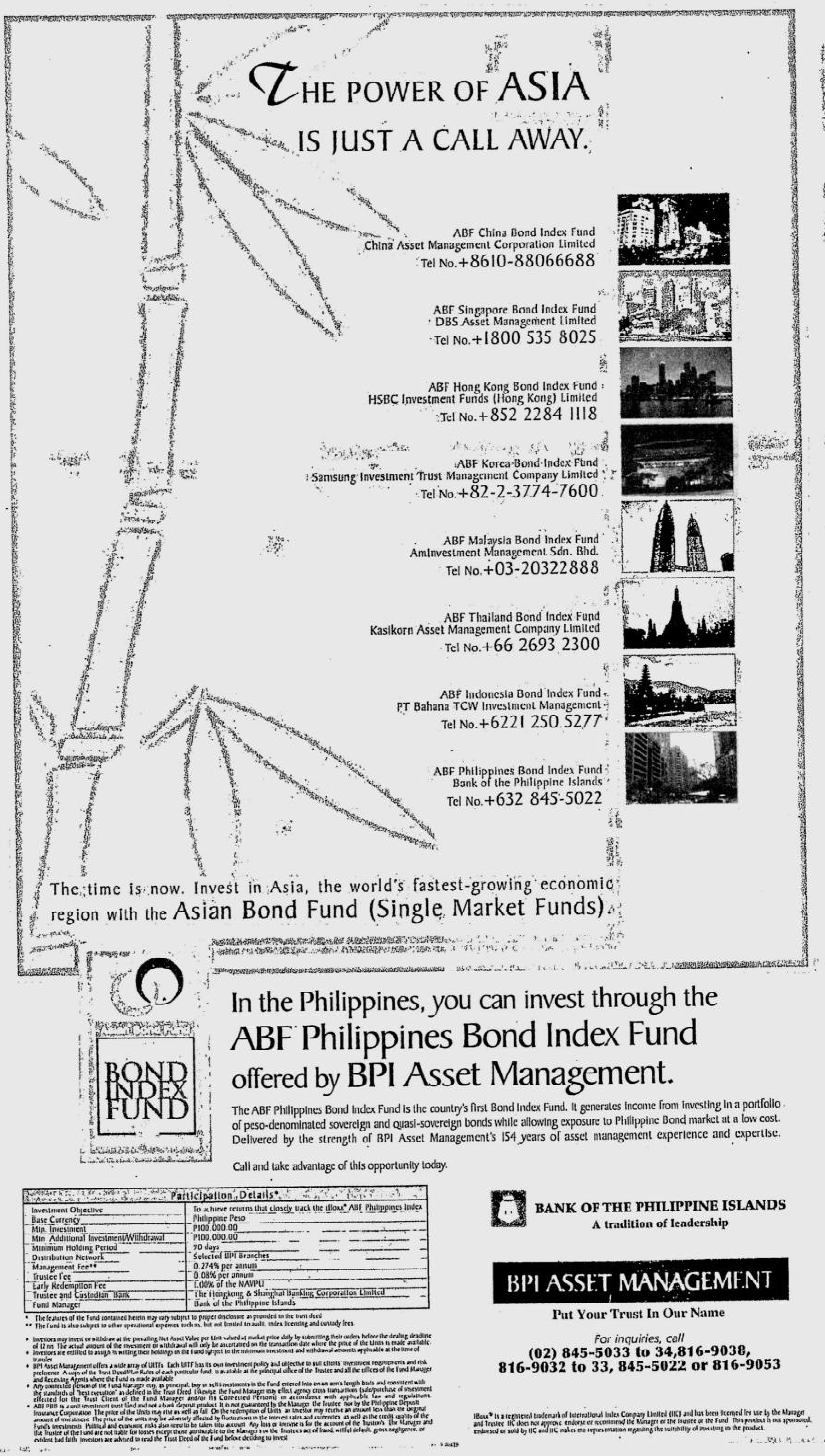
(See stock market report on Page B6)

Interest rate worries to hound stocks

UNCERTAINTIES WILL CONTINUE TO hound the market this week as worries over interest rates linger, but some investors are expected to pick up bargains given the heavy selling last week.

"There are speculations in the market that the US Federal Reserve policy-makers will keep raising interest rates until at least August. Locally, interest rates are seen to rise in tandem with their foreign counterparts. These interest rate concerns will remain a drag in the market for the rest of the month," AB Capital Securities said in a weekly report.

INTEREST/ B6



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Distribution Network	Selected BPI Branches
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VAT collections exceed target by 39%

Additional revenues hit ₱23.7B in Jan-April

By Michelle V. Remo

THE GOVERNMENT GENERATED P23.7 billion in additional revenues from the implementation of the VAT Reform Law in the first four months of the year, exceeding expectations and boosting its chances of meeting the full-year target.

The amount was 39-percent higher than the target of P17.1 billion set for the four-month period.

"This is a good indication that with sustained effort, we should be able to achieve our 2006 target of P75 billion in additional revenues from the VAT Reform Law," Finance Secretary Margarito Teves said in a statement.

The P23.7 billion collected was net of the deductions resulting from the measures implemented to mitigate the impact of the expanded and higher VAT on consumers. Gross VAT collections amounted to P34.9 billion.

The mitigating measures included the reduction of excise tax rates applied on petroleum products, (which resulted in P4.6 billion in foregone revenues), the repeal of the franchise tax on power distribution (P1 billion), removal of the common carriers' tax on international transport (P75.7 million), and the scrapping of the common carriers tax on domestic transport (P23.2 million).

The VAT law, considered as the centerpiece of the Arroyo administration's fiscal reform agenda, expanded the coverage of the tax to include previously exempt products like oil and electricity and raised the rate to 12 percent from 10 percent.

Documents from the Department of Finance showed that of the P23.7 billion in VAT revenues, the Bureau of Internal Revenue accounted for P8.3 billion while the Bureau of Customs contributed P15.4 billion.

The BIR and Customs exceeded their VAT collection targets of P2.28 billion and P14.8 billion, respectively. The BIR collects value-added tax from domestically produced goods, while the BOC slaps the tax on imported products.

Of the target of raising a total of P75 billion in additional revenues this year, the BIR is tasked to collect P20 billion, while the BOC is required to contribute P55 billion.

The DOF, head agency of the BIR, said the BOC was asked to generate more VAT revenues because of the high import volumes and the increasing prices of imported oil.

The government is conscious about meeting its VAT collection target given its role in improving the country's fiscal condition and credit image.

Credit-rating firms as well as investors are closely monitoring the government's revenue-collection performance following the Philippines' call for a better credit rating. They said that performance in terms of collecting the expected revenues from the VAT would determine the government's resolve to achieve a fiscal turnaround.

The government posted a budget deficit of P146.8 billion last year, but is targeting to cut the figure to only P125 billion this year. Under the medium-term goal, the deficit is targeted to be further reduced to only P63 billion next year and to zero by 2008.

Thai firm eyes ₱4-B . . .

From page B1

ucts from its refineries and blending facilities in Singapore and Thailand, respectively.

"We export finished products to the Philippines. Transportation cost is very high. It's not competitive," he explained.

He said the oil firm's planned blending facility here would be able to produce 20 million liters of different lubricants.

Siripong said the Philippine lubricants market presented a great revenue and market share expansion opportunity to the oil firm, considering its annual demand of 170 million liters a year.

PTT's five-year expansion also included the possibility of setting up an ethanol refinery here, Artasith said.

He said this plan was very much in its initial stages now as the oil firm was still in talks with Petron Corp. on a possible joint study on the feasibility of putting up an ethanol plant.

"We might put up a plant, but that would depend on the result of our talks and of the feasibility study," he said.

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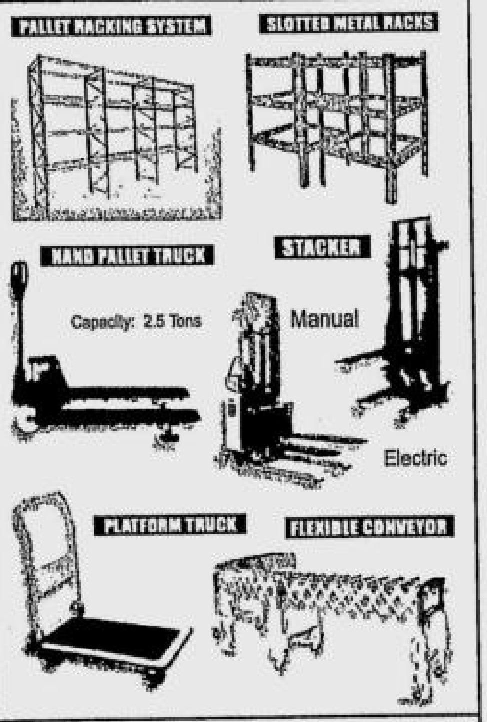

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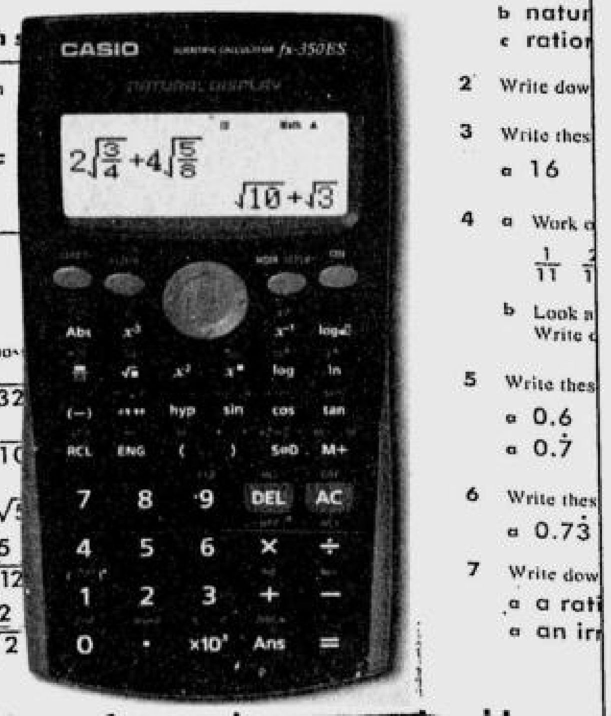

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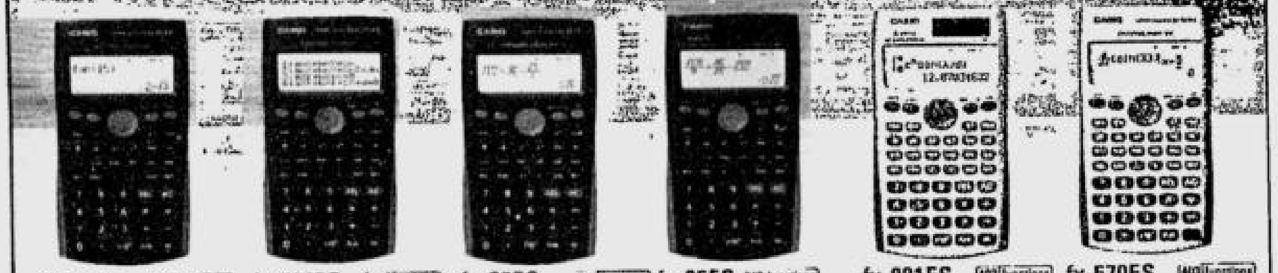

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Ramcar zaps rehab woes

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

AFTER YEARS OF COURT-SUPERvised workout, the Ramcar Group has finally wiped out all but P500 million of its P7.6-billion bank debts.

Even better, the manufacturer of Motolite and Oriental batteries ended 2005 with its unit production up by 37 percent, and export volume by a bigger 60 percent.

Encouraged by the results, Quezon City Regional Trial Court Judge Reynaldo Daway has decided to terminate the rehabilitation proceedings, prompting court-appointed receiver Fortunato Cruz to announce during the weekend that the country's biggest battery manufacturer has freed itself out of its financial straightjacket.

Ramcar filed for rehabilitation in December 2001, with Ramcar patriarch Manuel Agustines blaming the high-interest regime imposed by the central bank to defend the peso during the Asian currency crisis as having caused his ballooning debts.

In the end, Agustines, a former Citibanker, had to agree to settle P6.1 billion in unsecured bank debts via dacion en pago, giving up even personal assets and parcels of land to placate the bankers, who felt their ex-colleague had pulled a fast one over them.

From 70-percent market share, Ramcar—hamstrung by lack of advertising, marketing and promotional funds—saw its market share plunge to 50 percent by 2002.

Happily, the domestic market share is now back to 70 percent, according to Cruz. Even better, export sales now account for more than 51 percent of total revenues, from the pre-crisis 30 percent.

Financial adviser Monico V. Jacob is particularly proud that Motolite kept its warranty returns down to under 1 percent, compared to the international warranty standard of 3 percent.

Despite Ramcar's financial woes, its sister fast-food companies KFC and Mr. Donut had been insulated and in fact were even spurred to surpass the expansion targets imposed by their international franchisors, said Amado Santiago III, who, with his namesake and more famous father, served as Ramcar counsel throughout the rehabilitation case.

SM expands to Guam

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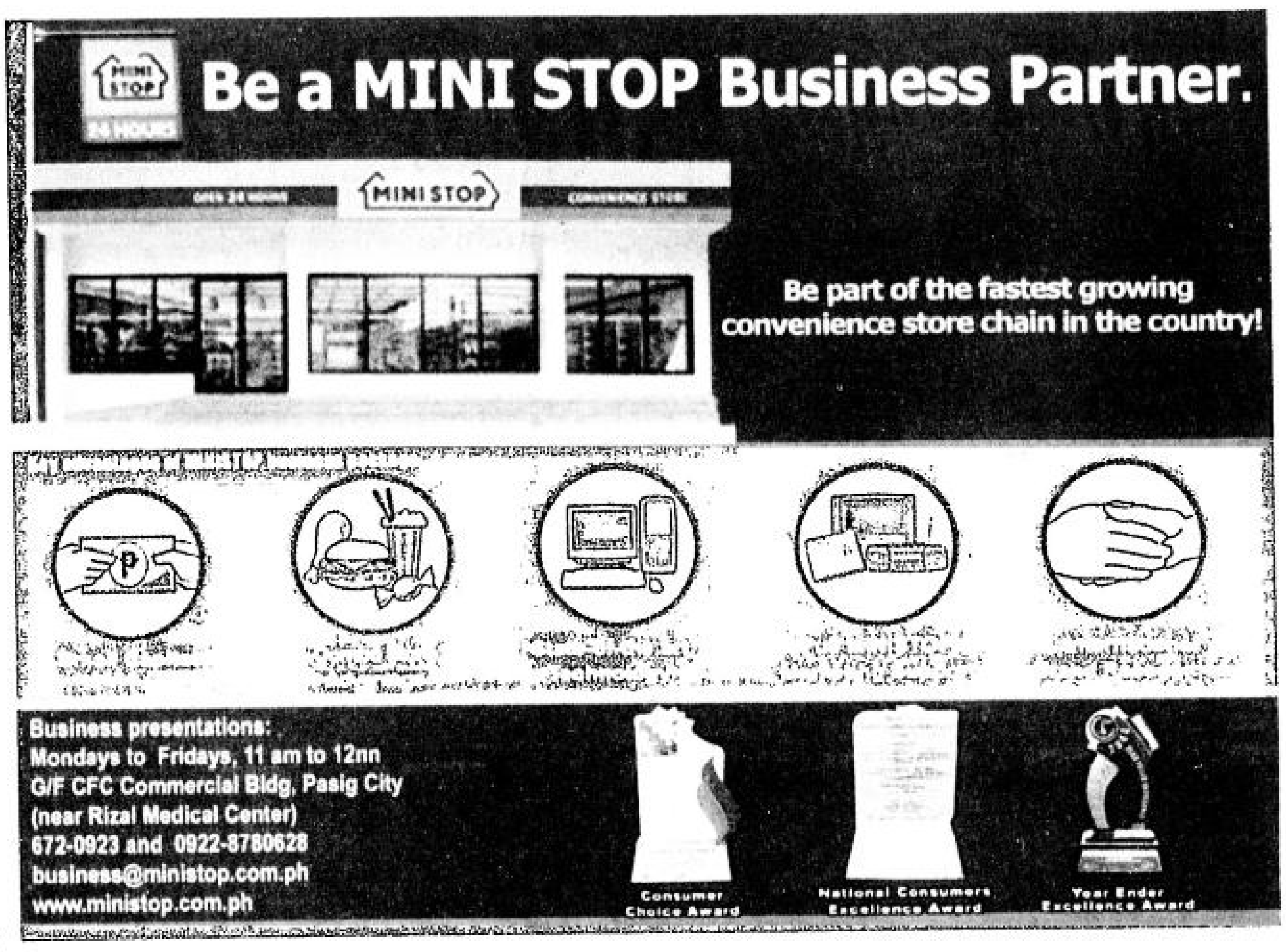
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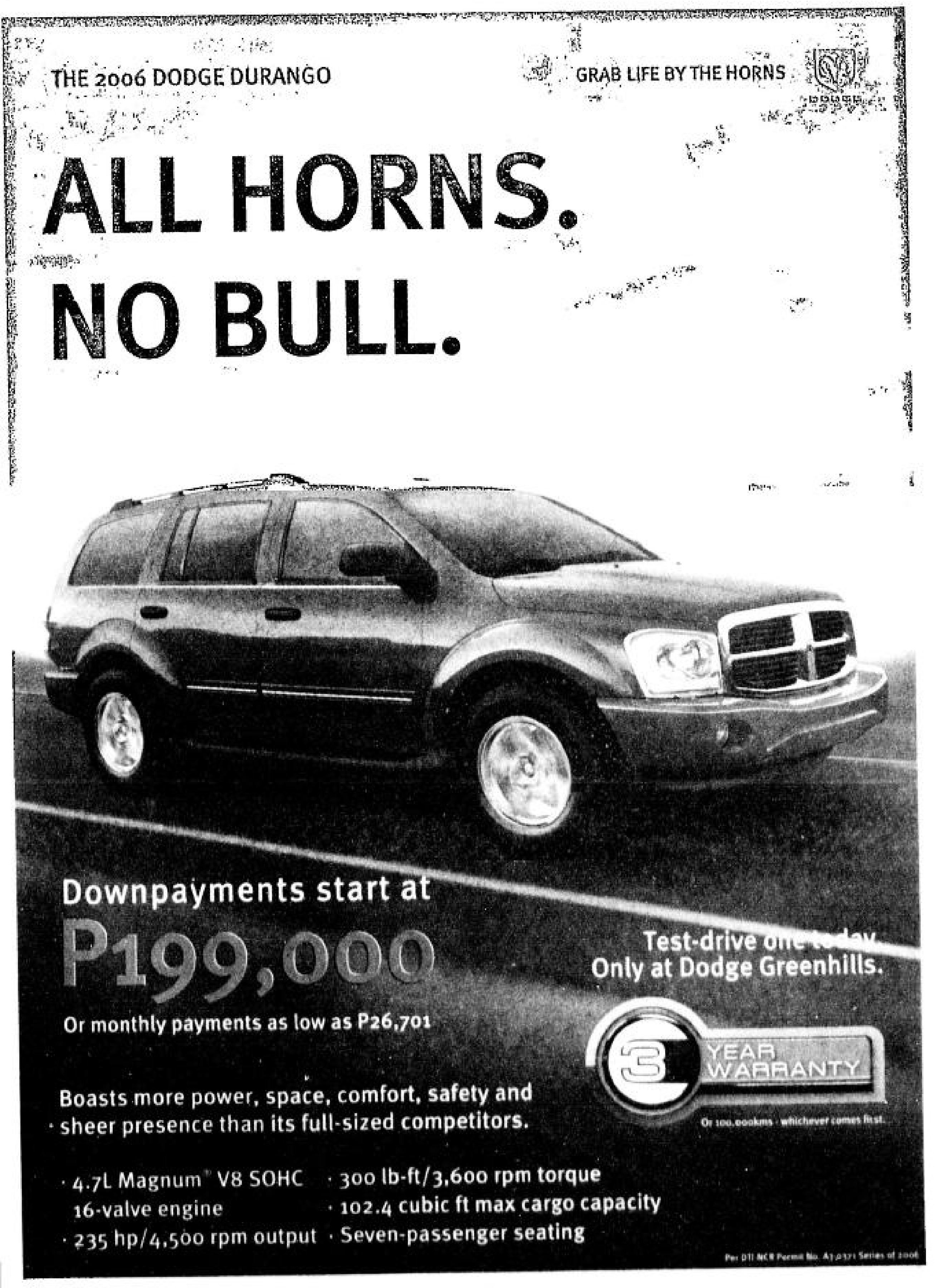
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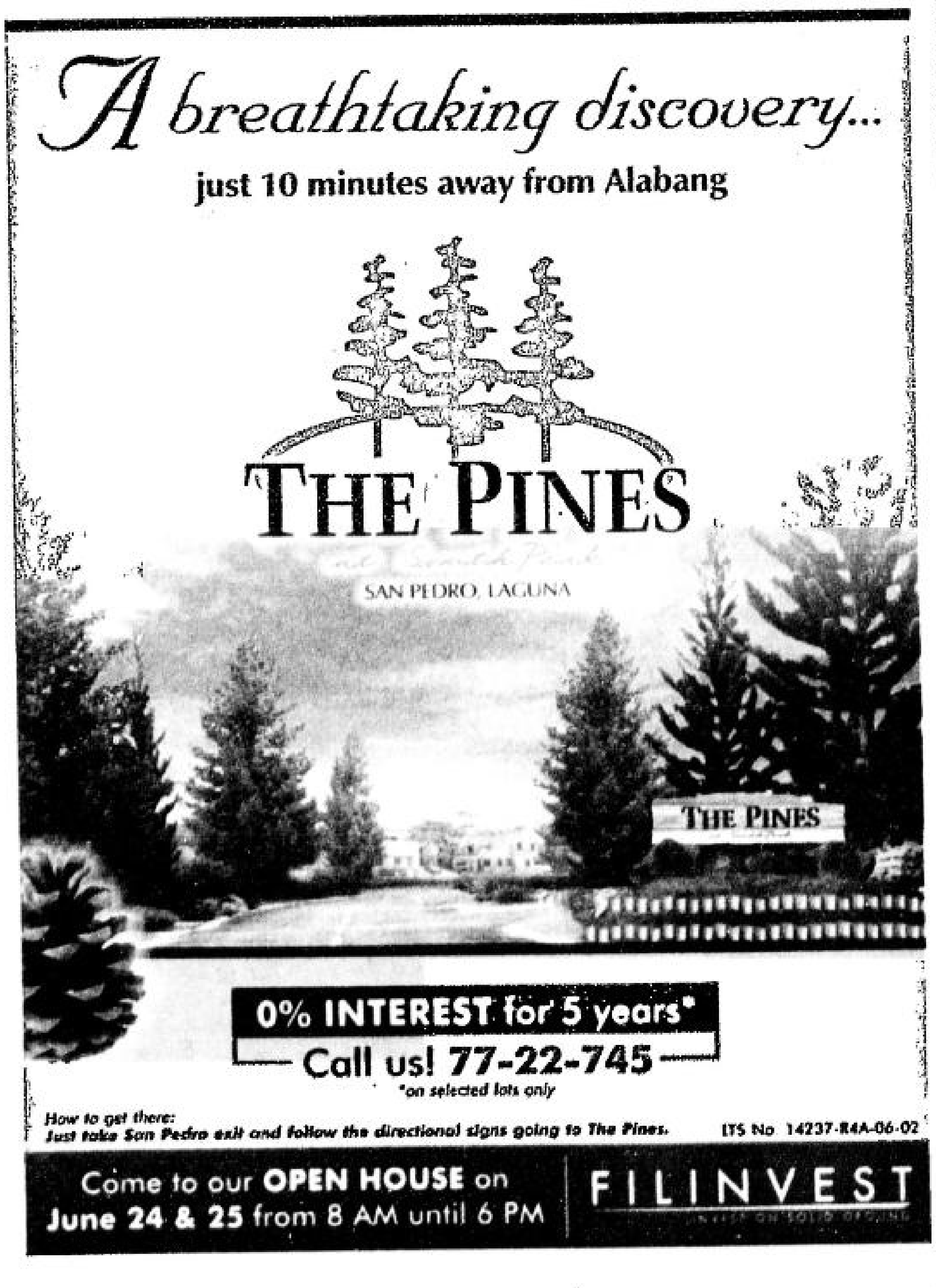
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No Free Lunch

Cielito F. Habito

IS PROMOTION OF THE EXPORT OF our human resources an official policy of our government? No one, not even government officials themselves, seems to have a straight answer to this long-standing question. The ambiguity of the official position on the matter rivals that on population policy. In both cases, apparent economic benefits clash with perceived social and moral costs. Thus, one's opinion on the matter reflects the individual's particular orientation and values, i.e. whether more predisposed to the economic or the social/moral considerations. In both issues, there is also some contradiction between aggregate society's perspective and the individual or family perspective in examining their virtues or drawbacks. Thus, it is quite understandable that the question never gets a straight "yes or no" answer from any government official. We instead tend to get an earful on both sides of the question, but still no clear answer at the end.

Deliberate tool

Should human exports be our official policy? For the same reasons above, we would probably get a clear split on this one. However, there seems to be considerable warming up lately to the affirmative side on this question.

In a two-day gathering late last week among academic researchers, NGOs, government officials and business leaders, there seemed to be an emerging consensus that international migration should be made a deliberate tool for our national development. We have, after all, been citing human resources to be the country's greatest asset all these years. A business leader lamented how our ambivalence on the matter has cost us substantial missed opportunities. Other countries, she pointed out, have been single-minded about their strategic assets and have parlayed them into propelling their economies into rapid growth. But our national ambivalence on international migration has kept us from being more strategic about it; instead, the general view is that government has been largely reactive on the matter all these years.

Reverse ODA

Filipinos are in fact preferred over other nationalities by employers in various occupations abroad. Filipinos could well be the most adaptable people in the world—and that is why we find them all over, even in the most unlikely places in the world like Iceland and even Antarctica. We have an uncanny facility for learning new languages. Our national hero, Dr. Jose Rizal, whose birthday the nation celebrates today, was known to speak more than 20 languages. We are a loving and caring people; indeed, millions of us make a living out of loving and caring for total strangers. In short, we do have a superior product to offer the world, and the world knows it.

Some have begun to argue that we should be charging host countries abroad for the massive public investments we had made in our superior workers who are now contributing substantially to their domestic economies. One of the forum speakers argued that we are actually a net "ODA donor" to the United States, if you count how much our government had invested in the education of doctors, nurses, teachers and other professionals now responsible for a significant part of their GDP. Thus, it is not far-fetched to consider demanding compensation from foreign governments hosting large numbers of Filipinos for these massive investments our taxpayers made (and that those foreign governments effectively saved), whose returns are now being enjoyed by those foreigners.

Other dimensions

One has to guard against being too preoccupied with the economic dimension of the question, however. It was no surprise that the strongest voices for the above arguments in the forum last week came from the business sector, whose perspectives are understandably colored by their particular professional orientation.

But as I like to point out, human welfare, and therefore development, has economic, social, environmental, political, cultural and spiritual dimensions. In each of these dimensions, there are implications of large-scale international migration of Filipinos that must be reckoned with. The social implications of the OFW phenomenon are already well known. The strategic political role of overseas Filipinos both in their host countries and in our own domestic political scene is finally being recognized. Similarly, overseas Filipinos have become agents for cultural change both in their host countries and here at home. And then there is that strong conviction among many, particularly among Christians, that there must be something in God's plan that is behind the fact that nationals of the only Christian country in Asia are now found in virtually every corner of the globe.

Finding a win-win

Our challenge lies in maximizing our country's benefits from international migration while avoiding, or at least mitigating, the various attendant costs, foremost of which are family breakdown and brain drain. We can vigorously negotiate, for example, that foreign employers and host governments readily permit families to join OFWs they employ. We can provide a policy environment that would make overseas telephone calls cheap. We can exercise reasonable regulation on the exit of professionals, especially those educated in public institutions. The first step is to clearly and unequivocally define our policy and strategy on international migration—and then we can be deliberate about everything else we need to do to make it a win-win situation for all Filipinos.

Comments welcome at chabito@ateneo.edu

Naia 3 opening seen in summer of '07

From page B1

time," the official said. "The construction work agreement between Miaa (Manila International Airport Authority) and Takenaka has not yet been signed and it will take two months to finalize."

Once this deal is sealed, he said it would take "at least six months" to complete the finishing touches on the airport terminal, which the government claimed was 98-percent complete.

The official opined that although the courts might decide to finally award the P3 billion as initial payment to the terminal's builders, actual operations would not commence this year.

Miaa general manager Alfonso Cusi said the opening date of the terminal would depend on how fast—and in whose favor—the courts would decide on the dispute.

"Because of this, it's difficult to say when it will open at this point," he said.

"There's still the issue of job completion and we can't start without a writ of possession," he added. "We're restricted from exercising ownership even if we have physical possession."

Recently, Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza said that at least three foreign companies were interested in bidding for a contract to assess the structural integrity of Terminal 3.

The bidders for the technical evaluation contract included companies from Japan and the United States—all with experience in working with airport facilities.

Mendoza said the technical evaluation would be independent from the price valuation of the terminal, which would form the basis of the government's payment to its German builders—a job that will be tackled by the legal system.

German airport operator Fraport AG, the main contractor for the project, claims it spent $450 million to build the terminal under the Philippine International Air Terminal Co. consortium.

The deal was nullified by the Supreme Court for being onerous to the government. Terminal 3 was scheduled for a "soft launch" last March 31, but that plan was put off after a section of the ceiling collapsed.

Cocktales

From page B3

taipan Henry Sy Sr., the department store is apparently a private venture of the Sy family, not of the listed mall operator, SM Prime Holdings, or their listed holding company, SM Investments.

With a floor area of about 3,900 square meters, the Guam store itself is small by SM standards. But then again, Guam has a population of only about 171,000, a third of whom are of Filipino origin.

According to local press accounts, Sy acquired for $10 million the moribund Agana Shopping Center in early 2003 after it was devastated by a supertyphoon.

The taipan in typical fashion proceeded to immediately renovate the mall and even added another wing, in preparation for the coming SM store.

Another Filipino taipan, Lucio Tan, already owns the biggest mall on the island, the Micronesia Mall, which counts on Macy's as anchor department store.

SM is thinking of bringing in either ABS-CBN or GMA 7 or both, possibly on a joint-production basis in view of the dollar-denominated costs, for the usual fiesta/show biz extravaganza that marks any opening day of an SM mall.

Guam, home to a branch of the K-Mart hypermarket chain, is expecting a retail revival with the impending relocation of a US Marine and Navy contingent from Okinawa.

Soft on Sigma Rogues

THE PRESIDENT of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines may spout a tough anti-GMA, anti-corruption stand, but, unknown to the public, the IBP chief, Joel Cadiz, is soft on erring fraternity brothers.

Cadiz and the IBP contested the Supreme Court having imposed a three-month suspension on a fellow Sigma Rhoan, who was found to have appeared in an SEC case against his very own client.

Not only that, the IBP even lectured the high tribunal that motions for reconsideration in bar discipline cases are prohibited in the IBP rules.

"This court, however, besides not being bound by the rules of the IBP, has already clarified in a long line of cases that motions for reconsideration are not prohibited in bar discipline cases," the Supreme Court's Third Division told the lawyers' group, in a resolution released last week.

Saying that the IBP must conform to the high tribunal's pronouncements, not the other way around, the Supreme Court then declared as void rule III, section 2(c) of the IBP rules of procedures of the Commission on Bar Discipline.

Money-go-round

- DENNIS Valdes, a.k.a. the husband of Tessa Prieto, has decided to work for his uncle at the publicly listed Philweb after a decade of working for his in-laws.
- SECURITY Bank is throwing a big bash for its clients and partners tomorrow night at the Philippine Plaza to celebrate its 55th anniversary. Unfortunately, the event coincides with SGV's dinner. See below.

Heard through the grapevine

A VIRTUAL who's who in Philippine business is expected to swamp Makati Shangri-La tomorrow night to personally wish continued health and success to SGV founder Washington Sycip on his 85th birthday and also to toast SGV's 60th anniversary.

It will be a pleasant surprise if SMC president Ramon Ang shows up.

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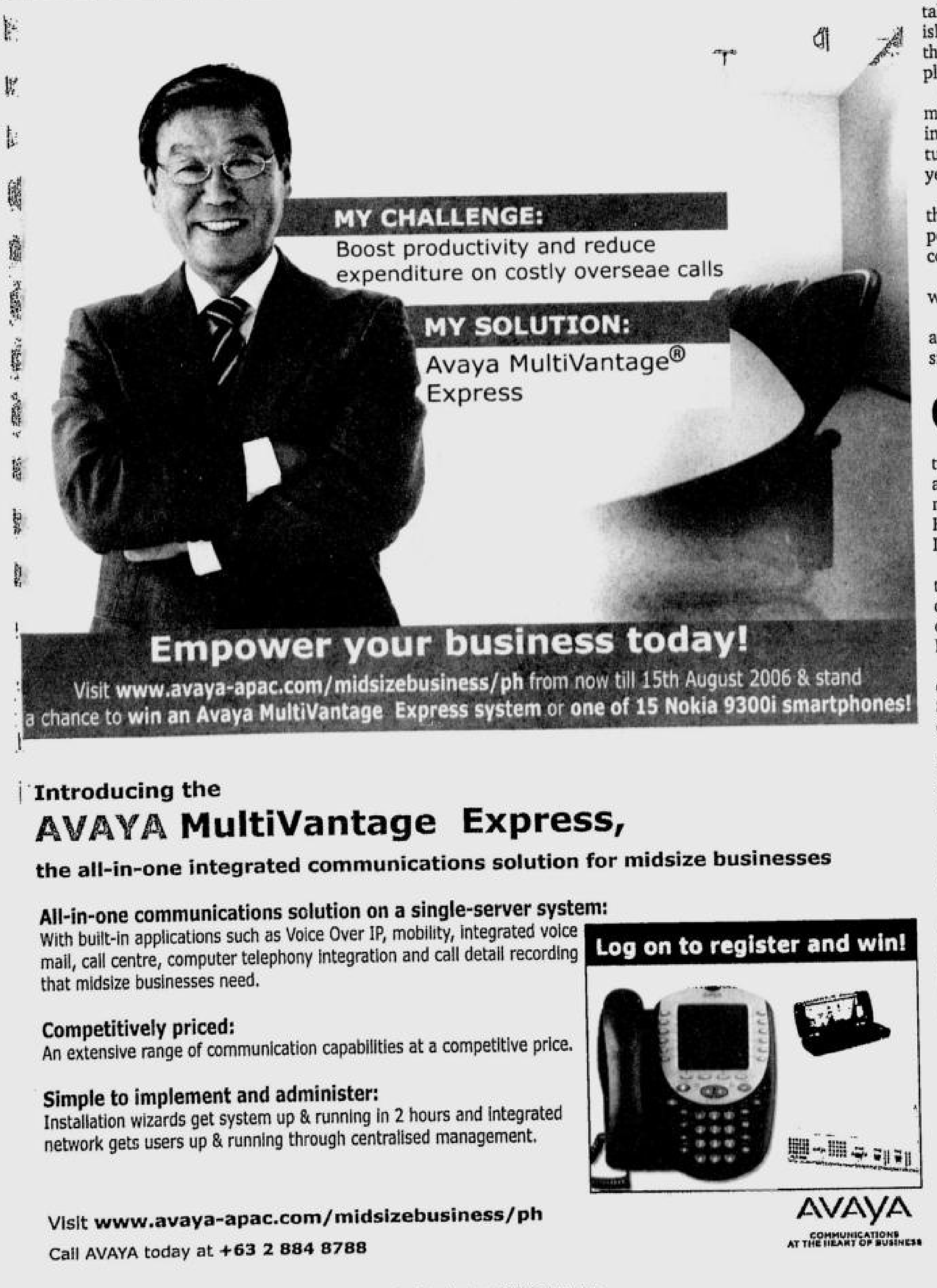

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Moody's says RP banks' profits 'overstated'

By Doris C. Dumlao

GLOBAL RATING FIRM MOODY'S said Philippine banks' earnings and capital were "overstated" due to lax regulations on losses booked from the sale of assets using the Special Purpose Vehicle framework.

After rival Standard & Poor's earlier assigned a rating of 8 (in a scale of 10 with 1 as the highest) to Philippine banks' country risk, Moody's average bank financial strength rating (BSFR) on the local system isn't any better at D- in view of "modest intrinsic strengths and weak operating environment."

"Moody's believes that it will take the banking system two to four years to rebuild capital to more adequate levels (8 percent economic capital ratio)," Moody's Investor Service said in a special commentary titled Asia Banking Outlook 2006 issued on Friday.

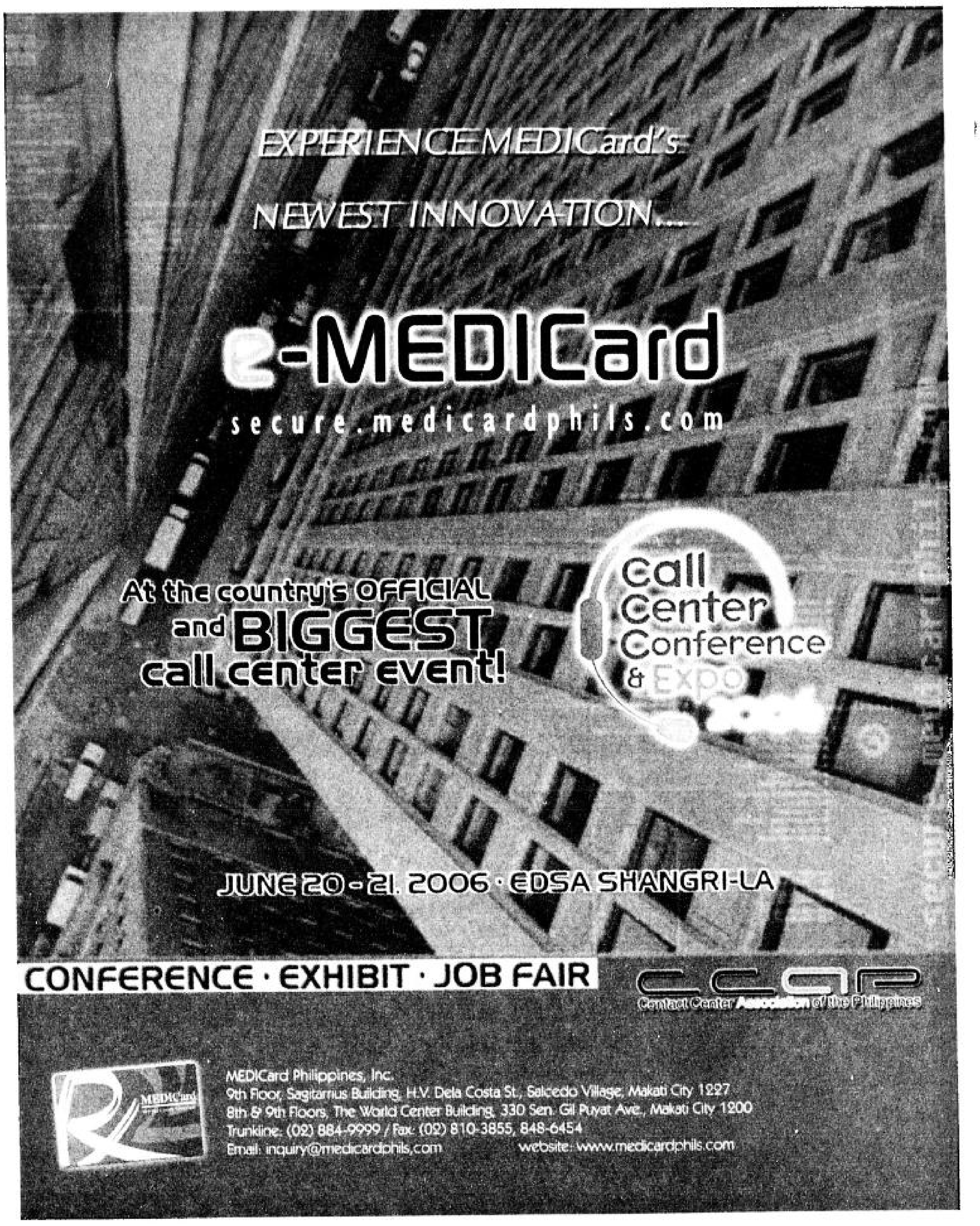
Moody's said the sector was being challenged by a weak operating environment, high level of nonperforming assets (NPAs) relative to loan-loss reserves and capital, uncertainty on consumer and middle-market strategies as well as fragmented structure, which constrains both profitability and efficiency and overburdens supervisory function.

"Given stricter capital charges on NPAs with the implementation of new accounting standards and Basel 2 (capital adequacy rules), banks will likely consider the SPV route, despite the deep discounts associated with such transactions. Consequently going forward, Philippine banks should report lower NPAs," the report said.

Congress approved last March the extension of the SPV Law, which offers generous fiscal incentives on asset transfers, for another two years to address the system's bad asset overhang.

"The provision of a 10-year period over which SPV-related losses can be amortized should reduce the negative impact on accounting profits. Such regulatory forbearance bolsters public confidence in the banking system but from an economic perspective, overstates bank earnings and

MOODY'S/B11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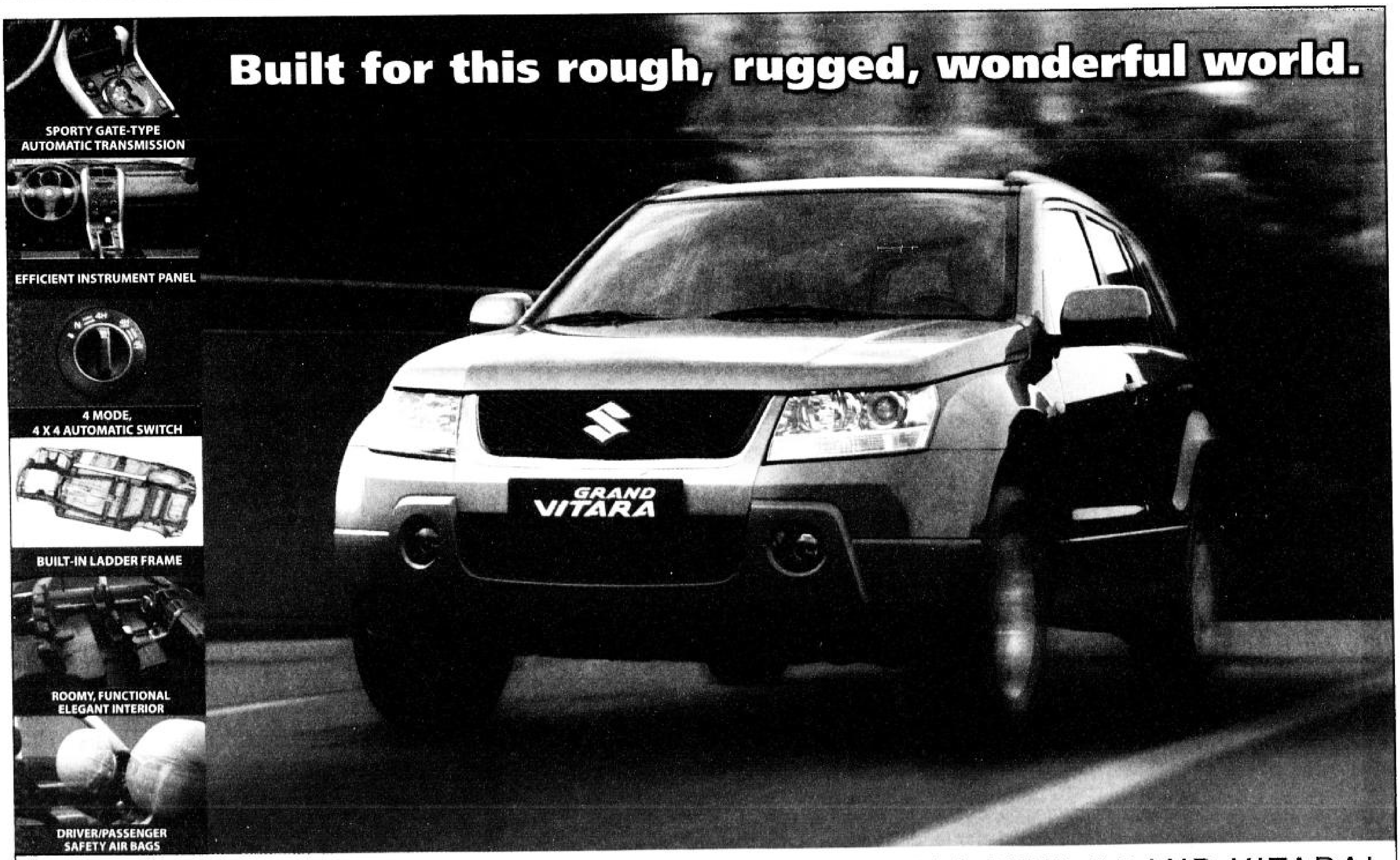
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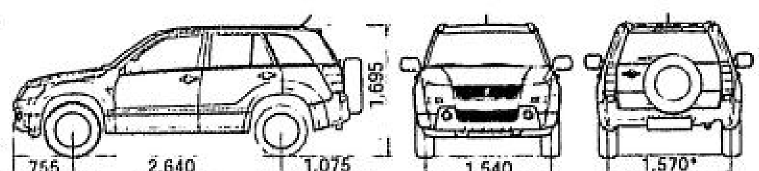

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Relaxation of BSP regulations on bancassurance sought

By Doris C. Dumlao

BANCASSURANCE OPPORTUNITIES IN THE Philippines are massive but underexploited compared to those in other Asian markets due to the tough barriers to entry put up by banking regulators, an industry official said.

Stephen Clark, the new president of Philam Equitable Life Assurance Co Inc. (Pelac), said this business had flourished much more in other markets due to their less stringent regulations.

Prior to his stint here, Clark handled AIG's bancassurance interest in Hong Kong.

"The tough one is the BSP's (Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas) rule providing that for a bank to be able to sell insurance, it has to own 5 percent of the insurance company whose products the bank is selling, which is how we came up with Pelac," Clark said in a roundtable discussion on Friday.

Bancassurance, or the selling of life insurance products by banks to their clients, started in the Philippines six years ago.

Pelac, which was established three years ago, is 95 percent owned by leading life insurer Philippine American Life and General Insurance Co. and 5 percent by Equitable PCI Bank.

"A part of me is saying that the regulation shouldn't be changed because that will make it easier for other players to come into the market," Clark said.

"But if I were speaking not as Pelac but as a new entrant, I would want that rule changed because it does restrict banks in terms of what products they can sell," he explained.

In most countries in Asia, Clark said banks were being allowed to work virtually as agents of multiple insurance companies.

He said that in these countries, there were also restrictions but not as stiff as those in the Philippines.

In Hong Kong, banks are allowed to have a maximum of four partnership arrangements with insurers.

"Most banks in Hong Kong would probably have two partners but not more than four. In other countries, you can have as many partners as you like," Clark said.

But the local regulations have worked well in the case of Philam and EPCIBank's partnership in Pelac, he stressed.

"What worked for us is the fact that the bank was focused on one company and it could concentrate on training the bank staff on our points of interest rather than the bank staff having to know all products in the market," Clark said.

Pelac posted P989 million in total premiums in 2005, making it the country's No. 2 bancassurance firm in terms of premium collections. The company aims to raise its sales by another 20-25 percent this year, given the "unexploited" opportunities in the Philippine market.

In other Southeast Asian emerging markets like Indonesia, Clark said bancassurance was contributing about 40-45 percent of AIG's turnover. In the Philippines, however, the share of bancassurance to AIG's business is only about 10-15 percent, he said.

Clark also noted that while Pelac was now No. 2 in terms of premium collection, there was still a long way to go to catch up with the number one player (Philippine AXA Life).

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SM unit earmarks ₱1B for Baguio condotel

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

SM DEVELOPMENT Corp. (SMDC), the property arm of the SM Group of Companies, is setting aside about P1 billion to develop a condominium-hotel on a one-hectare lot in Baguio.

The construction of the "condotel" is expected to start next year , SMDC president Rogelio Cabuñag said.

SMDC is spending roughly P1.6 billion in the next two years for residential projects.

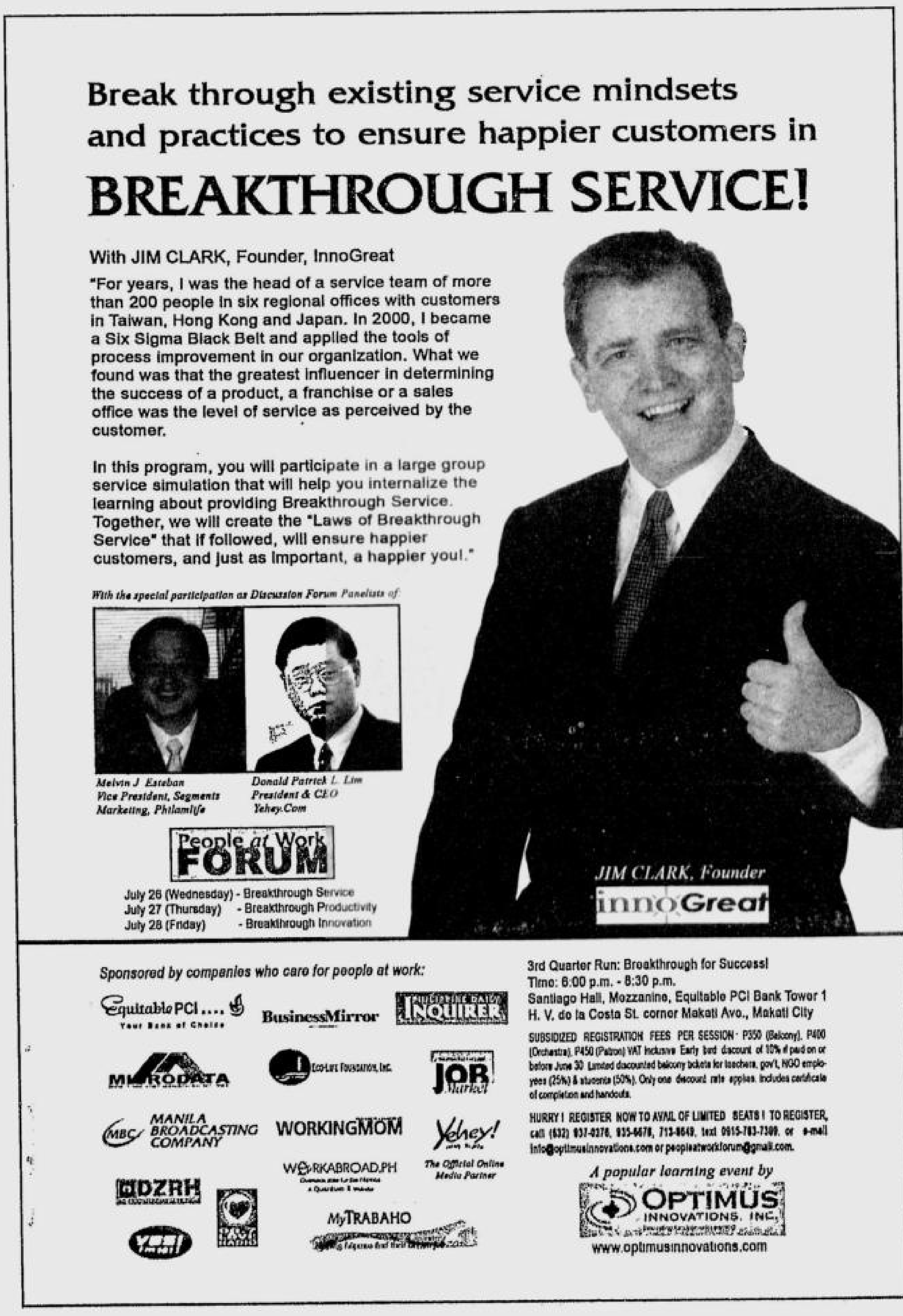
Of the total amount, some P800 million will be spent this year for the company's medium-rise "condoville" dubbed Chateau Elysee near SM Bicutan in Parañaque, the high-rise Mezza Residences beside SM City Sta. Mesa in Manila and a residential subdivision project in Muntinlupa.

SMDC recently completed the second phase of its maiden project, the P3.7-billion Chateau Elysee, a six-cluster, six-story French-Mediterranean inspired condominium on a 4.7-hectare lot. The second phase, dubbed Lafayette, with 384 units, will be ready for occupancy this year.

SMDC is spending P250 million for Chateau Elysee this year.

SMDC is also earmarking P400 million for Mezza Residences this year. This is a P5.2-billion high-rise project that will cater to entrepreneurs, middle management, medical students and professionals.

Mezza will have four towers of 348 units or a total of 1,551 units. The first two towers will be ready for occupancy by 2009.



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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of June 16, 2006)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
		BANKS			
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	5.3	5.3	5.2	5.2	16,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	33	33	32	32.5	112,100
Bank of the Phil. Islands	48	48.5	46.5	47	3,535,300
China Banking Corp.	870	870	870	870	100
Citystate Savings Bank	20.5	20.5	20.5	20.5	1,600
Export and Ind. Bank A	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	1,310,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	72.5	73.5	72	73.5	330,800
International Exch. Bank	41	41	41	41	14,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	31.5	33	31.5	32.5	1,492,200
Philippine National Bank	31	32	31	32	22,500
Phil. Savings Bank	39.5	39.5	39.5	39.5	5,000
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	18	18	17.75	18	48,000
Security Bank Corp.	46.5	46.5	45	45.5	444,500
Union Bank of the Phil.	42.5	42.5	42.5	42.5	23,700
		OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS			
ATR Kimeng Fin. Corp.	1.76	1.76	1.76	1.76	199,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	31	31.5	31	31.5	10,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1700	1700	1700	1700	160
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1	1	1	1	200,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2020	2020	2020	2020	230
Ivantage Corp.	1.18	1.2	1.18	1.18	3,350,000
		ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER			
First Gen Corp.	43	43	42.5	42.5	124,500
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	43.5	44	42.5	43	1,316,900
Manila Electric Co. A	13.75	13.75	13.75	13.75	700
Manila Electric Co. B	21	21.5	21	21	111,600
Manila Water Co. Inc.	7.1	7.2	7	7.1	1,635,000
Petron Corp.	3.65	3.65	3.55	3.6	6,345,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	250,000
		FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO			
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	1,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	23	23	23	23	30,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	32.5	33	31.5	31.5	999,500
Pancake House Inc.	3.5	4.5	3.5	4.1	223,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	2.65	2.65	2.6	2.6	577,000
San Miguel Corp. A	64	64.5	63.5	64.5	120,900
San Miguel Corp. B	71	71	70	71	131,800
Universal Robina Corp.	19	19.25	18.75	19	3,533,100
Vitarich Corp.	0.19	0.21	0.19	0.21	250,000
		CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES			
Southeast Asian Cement	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	650,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	1.22	1.22	1.2	1.2	1,194,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	2,958,000
Republic Cement Corp.	1.24	1.24	1.24	1.24	10,000
		CHEMICALS			
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	10,000
		DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS			
Global Equities Inc.	0.0725	0.075	0.07	0.0725	3,800,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.075	100,000
Steniel Manufacturing	0.22	0.25	0.22	0.25	180,000
		HOLDING FIRMS			
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.006	0.0065	0.006	0.0065	72,000,000
Ayala Corp.	360	362.5	350	350	289,140
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.46	0.48	0.45	0.48	1,230,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	5.2	5.2	5.1	5.2	267,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.024	10,900,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.14	2.14	2	2	831,000
APC Group Inc.	0.195	0.2	0.195	0.195	400,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.93	0.94	0.91	0.91	920,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.	1.4	1.48	1.4	1.44	125,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	9.8	9.9	9.7	9.8	11,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.02	1.04	1	1	4,180,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3.75	3.85	3.75	3.75	332,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	3	3	2.9	2.9	76,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	6	6	6	6	5,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.165	0.165	0.165	0.165	50,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.54	1.54	1.54	1.54	131,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	440,000
SM Investments Corp.	213	213	211	212	7,970
Seafront Resources Corp.	0.73	0.73	0.73	0.73	50,000
		PROPERTY			
Ayala Land Inc.	12	12	11.25	11.75	11,755,300
Belle Corp.	1.02	1.08	1.02	1.08	7,348,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	1.9	1.92	1.9	1.92	3,000
C & P Homes Inc.	1.44	1.44	1.4	1.4	130,000
EIB Realty Developers Inc.	0.14	0.16	0.14	0.15	250,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.58	0.59	0.58	0.59	6,210,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	0.85	0.85	0.8	0.8	150,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.36	1.38	1.3	1.3	11,679,000
Interport Res.	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	5,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	10,000,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.205	0.205	0.205	0.205	1,000,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	100,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.48	1.5	1.44	1.44	25,976,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.21	0.215	0.2	0.2	8,020,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.22	0.23	0.22	0.23	600,000
Primex Corp.	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	65,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	10	10	10	10	46,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	3,310,000
SM Development Corp.	1.48	1.48	1.48	1.48	215,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.3	7.3	7.2	7.3	7,751,000
Suntrust Home Dev. Inc.	0.54	0.54	0.54	0.54	80,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.065	0.065	0.06	0.065	4,900,000
		MEDIA			
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	2,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	1.12	1.26	1.12	1.26	52,000
		TELECOMMUNICATIONS			
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1.16	1.18	1.14	1.16	2,207,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	900	930	900	930	61,770
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.3	3.3	3.2	3.3	7,424,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1890	1890	1800	1805	58,940
		INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY			
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.16	0.18	0.16	0.18	1,210,000
Ionics Inc.	2.1	2.24	2.1	2.24	1,343,000
Transpacific Broadband	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	100,000
Philweb Corp.	0.03	0.031	0.029	0.031	213,300,000
		TRANSPORTATION SERVICES			
Asian Terminals Inc.	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	1,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	13.25	13.75	13.25	13.75	3,963,500
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.32	1.32	1.32	1.32	60,000
		HOTEL & LEISURE			
Acesite Phils Hotel Corp.	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	510,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.36	1.36	57,000
Manila Jockey Club	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	8,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	50,000
Philippine Racing Club	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	1,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.6	0.6	0.57	0.57	1,090,000
		EDUCATION			
IPeople Inc.	3.05	3.05	3	3	309,000
		DIVERSIFIED SERVICES			
Macroasia Corp.	1.98	2.02	1.98	2	370,000
Paxys Inc.	10	10	9.7	9.8	299,000
		MINING			
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	55,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	6	6.2	6	6.1	995,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	15,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.27	0.28	0.27	0.28	24,330,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.31	0.33	0.31	0.32	8,050,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.02	0.022	0.02	0.021	111,400,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.023	0.023	0.023	0.023	39,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0075	0.008	0.0075	0.0075	327,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	3.1	3.35	3.1	3.35	19,279,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	3.2	3.35	3.15	3.35	20,398,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	27	27.5	27	27.5	51,200
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.29	0.3	0.29	0.3	440,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.5	0.51	0.5	0.51	250,000
		OIL			
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	520,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0095	0.0095	0.009	0.009	268,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0095	0.0095	0.0095	0.0095	11,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	1.12	1.16	1.12	1.14	1,621,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	1.16	1.16	1.12	1.14	1,091,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	16.25	17	16.25	16.75	1,120,100
		PREFERRED			
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	500
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
		WARRANTS, PHIL. DEPOSIT RECEIPTS, ETC.			
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	14.5	14.75	14.25	14.75	135,200

CURRENCIES

June 18, 2006 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.792079	1.000000	53.1040
Japan	Yen	0.006901	0.008712	0.4626
United Kingdom	Pound	1.464317	1.848700	98.1734
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.102043	0.128829	6.8413
Switzerland	Franc	0.643235	0.812084	43.1249
Canada	Dollar	0.712558	0.899604	47.7726
Singapore	Dollar	0.498163	0.628931	33.3988
Australia	Dollar	0.583354	0.736485	39.1103
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.101173	2.652731	140.8706
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.211198	0.266638	14.1595
Brunei	Dollar	0.496601	0.626959	33.2940
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000085	0.000107	0.0057
Thailand	Baht	0.020641	0.026059	1.3838
UAE	Dirham	0.215649	0.272257	14.4579
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.262500	67.0438
ArgentinaPeso	0.257377	0.324939	17.2556	
Brazil	Real	0.351255	0.443459	23.5494
Denmark	Kroner	0.134189	0.169414	8.9966
India	Rupee	0.017283	0.021820	1.1587
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.217008	0.273973	14.5491
Mexico	New Peso	0.069624	0.087900	4.6678
New Zealand	Dollar	0.491395	0.620386	32.9450
South Africa	Rand	0.115253	0.145507	7.7270
Korea	Won	0.000825	0.001042	0.0553
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024352	0.030744	1.6326

Interest rate ...

From page B1

The benchmark Philippine Stock Exchange index (PSEi) fell 38 points or 1.76 percent last week to 2,121.47.

However, the market regained its poise toward the end of the week as the US market recovered.

AB Capital Securities said the rally in Wall St. was sparked by comments from the US Federal Reserve that inflation would not be as high as most financial markets expected.

Locally, news of a government budget surplus for May boosted sentiment, curbing some of the market's sharp losses last week.

The government posted a budget surplus of P5.8 billion for the month of May, a follow-up from an April surplus that brought the year-to-date budget deficit lower, at P44.2 billion. This is the first time in 20 years that the country registered a surplus in May.

"Based on this trend, the government looks likely to meet this year's budget target deficit of P126 billion, especially given the stalemate in the 2006 budget, which is restricting government spending," AB Capital Securities noted.

But overall sentiment may be dampened by an expected increase in local interest rates. *Elizabeth L. Sanchez*

Gov't sees $1B in Malampaya royalties in Q3

By Abigail L. Ho

THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT CAN START collecting as much as $1 billion in royalties from the $4.5-billion Malampaya Deep Water Gas-to-Power Project starting this month, as the cost-recovery period for the project is now about to end.

Eduardo Mañalac, president and chief executive of Malampaya consortium member Philippine National Oil Co. Exploration Corp. (PNOC-EC), said the cost-recovery period was expected to end "before the second half of the year."

This means that the consortium members will have already recovered bulk of the project's development cost, or 70 percent in total, within the first half.

Under the cost-recovery program for the project, consortium members PNOC-EC, Shell Philippines Exploration BV and Chevron Texaco Malampaya can recover up to 70 percent of their investment in the project.

The consortium members and the national government may get to split among them 30 percent of Malampaya's overall revenues.

This 30 percent is split 60-40, in favor of the consortium members.

But once the cost-recovery period ends, 60 percent of Malampaya's total revenues will go to the national government, while the remaining 40 percent will be divided among the consortium members.

Royalties from the project are benchmarked on the prices of international crude.

According to estimates, the government can collect between $9 billion and $13 billion

GOV'T/ B9

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Psalm to borrow $700M to settle Napocor debts

THE POWER SECTOR ASSETS AND LIABILITIES Management Corp. (PSALM) this year will borrow $700 million mainly to fund the debt-servicing requirements of the National Power Corp.

Nieves Osorio, president of PSALM, the agency tasked to dispose of Napocor's assets and assume its obligations, said the size of the borrowing was roughly the same as Napocor's maturing obligations this year.

Around $200 million would cover part of the Yankee bond, which Napocor availed of in 1996. The bond will mature late this year.

Another $300 million would likely be earmarked for other debts, particularly those that the national government did not absorb.

The national government had earlier assumed P200 billion of the state firm's debts, the most it could absorb under RA 9136 or the Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001 (Epira).

Osorio said that there may no longer be any need to conduct a roadshow as quite a number of entities have already expressed willingness to lend to PSALM, on behalf of Napocor.

Napocor last year borrowed close to $800 million to finance its maturing obligations, as well as its capital expenditures and general funding requirements.

Napocor used to meet its external funding requirements through borrowings from the national government, issuance of local bonds and credit-enhanced transactions involving insurance providers. *Abigail L. Ho*

Hotel operator nets windfall in first quarter

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

HOTEL OPERATOR WATERFRONT PHILIPPINES Inc., (WPI) said its net operating profit surged to P86 million in the first quarter compared to last year's P1 million.

Company officials also reported a 34-percent growth in gross operating profit to P215 million from last year's P160 million.

Room revenues rose 16 percent growth to P176 million from last year's P152 million. The food and beverage division meanwhile recorded double-digit growth of 11 percent in gross receipts.

The company said in a statement that the improvements were due to continued programs to aggressively expand WPI's marketing and distribution network.

Last year the firm spent almost P200 million to complete the first phase of its renovation program for its four first-class hotels. This year it will spend another P200 million to complete the second phase of the program.

WPI is the country's largest Filipino-owned and -managed hotel chain.

In Manila, it operates the Manila Pavilion Hotel and Casino. In Cebu, it has the Waterfront Cebu City Hotel and Casino and the Waterfront Airport Hotel and Casino Mactan. In Davao, it runs the Waterfront Insular Hotel Davao. WPI operates close to 1,500 rooms and employs 1,500 workers.

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- 512MB DDR2 Memory (8GB Max)
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Exports seen growing 15%

Industry doubling target as global demand for electronics, garments grows stronger

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINE EXPORT INDUSTRY expects its earnings to surge by 15 percent this year, nearly double the export growth target of the government, on strong global demand for electronics and garments.

At the sidelines of an environmental mapping forum conducted by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas last week, Philippine Confederation of Exporters (Philexport) president Sergio Ortiz-Luis told reporters that the government's export target of 8 percent could easily be exceeded due to the heavy shipment of merchandise goods abroad.

As such, he said the peso's recent depreciation to 53:$1—while beneficial to the export sector—would likely be temporary because strong inflows from exports would prop up the local currency and compensate for the slowdown in foreign exchange remittances from overseas Filipino workers.

"To hit $50 billion (in export revenue), we have to raise the (growth) target to 15 percent," Ortiz-Luis said, noting that the strong export performance in the last few months was likely to be sustained for the rest of the year.

The country's export earnings jumped by 26.3 percent in March and 18.7 percent in April from year-ago levels, bringing the four-month average growth in export receipts to 15.2 percent equivalent to $14.75 billion worth of goods sold abroad.

"Export of electronics had increased by 20 percent as there was strong demand for consumer durables," Ortiz-Luis said.

The country's electronics exports, which account for two-thirds of the total, consist of semiconductors, office equipment, telecommunication and medical/industrial instrumentation.

The Philexport chief said the garment sector was likewise doing well. For the month of April, earnings from garments were boosted by bulk orders for men's wear, brassieres, blouses and shirts for women.

"We also know that in the last quarter (export growth) is higher, so unless something happens we'll probably hit (export growth of) 15 percent," he said. Ortiz-Luis added that the Philippines was benefiting from a robust trade relationship with mainland China.

"For the last three years, we've seen the biggest monthly growth. There were even months where growth in exports to China hit 75 percent but on the average, it's stabilizing at about 50 percent because of the growing base," Ortiz-Luis said.

"While we're wary of the Chinese goods coming in, I always tell people to remember that their (China's) market here is only 80 million (representing the country's population) and that our potential buyers there are 1.2 billion," he said.

As such, he said the Philippines was piling up bilateral trade surpluses against China.

"Of course, this doesn't reflect the goods that possibly come in through smuggling, but that's another story," he said.

Ortiz-Luis has also given up on any windfall from the much-ballyhooed Doha round because most countries did not want to give in to the proposed settlement to disadvantaged countries.

"Now, everyone is busy with bilaterals (agreements). That's the indication that it's not gonna happen," he said.

Nobel Prize Laureate for economics Joseph Stiglitz said there was no doubt that an ambitious Doha round would deliver significant gains to rich countries and that these gains would far outweigh gains to poor countries. As such, he advocated aid for trade as a way to redistribute (the benefits), through which the reality of the unbalanced outcome can be squared."

GOINGS ON

Puregold trade show

SUPERMARKET CHAIN PUREGOLD IS LAUNCHING the first ever sari-sari store trade show in the country.

The event—"Tindahan ni Aling Puring 2006: A Sari-Sari Store Convention"—offers the opportunity for some 3,000 corner store owners to experience a gathering dedicated to them.

An AC Nielsen survey showed that more Filipinos preferred buying goods from *sari-sari* stores or corner stores, accounting for 91 percent of the country's total trade channels as the center of interaction and commerce in every *barangay*.

Recognizing this role of the sari-sari store, Puregold has come up with a venue to give sari-sari store owners a chance to tap further into their potential as micro entrepreneurs through *negosyo* sessions aimed at helping them manage their businesses better.

The sari-sari store convention will be held on June 23 at the World Trade Center in Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City, and will be participated in by leading suppliers such as Colgate-Palmolive, Nestlé, Procter and Gamble, Unilever, San Miguel Corp., Del Monte, Purefoods, Universal Robina Corp., Rebisco, Nissin Monde and Kraft.

The event is by invitation only and will be attended by the top 3,000 members of the growing Puregold Aling Puring Exclusives Program.

Disaster preparedness

RIZAL COMMERCIAL BANKING CORP. HAS EMbarked on a bold technology shift to raise the bar of its business continuity readiness and disaster preparedness. This was made possible through the bank's partnership with Total Information Management Corp. (TIM).

With TIM providing the necessary business recovery center (BRC) equipment and facilities, RCBC is now using remote disk mirroring technology to ensure that every banking transaction can be safely recovered in real time mode in a remote site, if and when an unforeseen event renders RCBC's main computer center unusable for a prolonged period of time.

RCBC's remote mirroring solution is based on symmetrix remote data facility (SRDF), a product of EMC Corp., one of TIM's business partners since 1997.

"We hope to be able to assist other banks in venturing into similar endeavors in the near future," says Jose Mari M. Antunez, president/CEO of TIM.

F&B expo set

THE TRAINING INSTITUTE FOR MANILA ENGIneers (Time) Foundation Inc. and leading event organizer Cut Unlimited Inc. will hold the 8th International Food & Beverage Manufacturing and Technologies Expo (F&B ManuTech) on June 21-23, 2006 at the PICC Forum, Manila.

Dubbed as the country's only trade-focused F&B manufacturing and technologies exhibition, the F&B ManuTech Expo 2006 will focus on attaining international recognition by showcasing world-class products and equipment.

ManuTech Expo will focus on diverse technologies, equipment and machinery that cover the entire F & B manufacturing process.

Abaca: Let's stick to what we do best

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honesto C. General

IN HIS INFINITE WISDOM, GOD blessed the Philippines, more particularly the province of Albay, with the abaca plant.

The abaca plant is a variety of banana. But the fruit of the abaca is hardly edible. You can't eat it raw. Neither can you boil or fry it.

What is precious in the abaca plant is the fiber that is stripped from its petioles or leaf sheaths. Traditionally, the fiber was stripped by hand through a pair of metal knives. The abaca stripper was a respected technician in the plantation.

In 1820, the American shipping industry discovered that the abaca fiber was the best for nautical ropes because of its remarkable tensile strength. It was, in fact, the strongest of all natural fibers. It was also resistant to salt water decomposition. That year, the first 10 tons of the fiber was shipped from Albay to the US. Thus began the abaca boom, which reached its peak during the US Civil War when the North expanded its fleet to blockade the South.

Abaca fiber became known in the world market as Manila hemp. With the rising demand for the fiber, abaca plantations sprang up in the rest of Bicol, in the Visayas and Mindanao. By 1880, exports accounted for 30 percent of our dollar earnings. Albay became the richest province.

Before World War II, the Japanese invested in a large abaca plantation in Davao. It was probably the first major Japanese investment here. After the war, the government took over the plantation, broke it up into small lots, and distributed them to Filipino veterans in the area. As the first agrarian reform program, it was a flop. Production dropped.

Antonio Floirendo set up the first abaca plantation with a mechanized decorticating and drying plant in Tagum, Davao. His product was traded in New York as Manila hemp, Tadeco grade. Later, he closed down his abaca operations and shifted to putting up the world's biggest plantation of Cavendish bananas.

Also after World War II, synthetic fiber became a strong competitor to abaca fiber. Gradually, abaca fiber lost a large share of the world market for ropes and cordage.

Now, abaca is making a strong comeback. The fiber is still widely use for ropes and cordage, but it is now also used as a material for a wide variety of applications: Furniture and fixtures, gifts and novelty items, decorative accessories, textiles, handicraft, cosmetic, skin care products, security paper.

The most promising and widest industrial use is to reinforce plastic car parts. I hear a large plantation in the Visayas is being planned for this purpose.

Also, because of the growing global concern over the environment, biodegradable natural fibers like abaca are preferred over nonbiodegradable plastic and other synthetic materials. This widens even more the market for abaca fiber.

Congressman Luis Villafuerte (1st district, Camarines Sur) has published a coffee table book, ABACA Philippines, (Apples of Gold Publishing), www.abacaphilippines.com. The price of P2,500 per copy is money well spent.

Villafuerte traces the stirring history of abaca. He explains why abaca should recover, if not surpass, its past glory.

President Macapagal-Arroyo predicts that the Philippines will catapult into the First World by 2020. This will happen only if we do not forget that the Philippines is the abaca capital of the world. Abaca should be a major component of economic planning. Let us stick to what we do best.

SEN. PIA CAYETANO (right) discusses with Five9 country manager Junie Pama, CEO Brian Silverman and VP Gus Laredo the impact of the business process outsourcing sector to the jobs generation program of the country.

Mindanao call centers to cater to Arab market

INTERNATIONAL CALL CENTER SOLUTIONS provider Five9 Inc. and the Mindanao State University (MSU) recently signed a memorandum of agreement to establish call centers in Mindanao that will service the Arabic-speaking markets in the Middle East.

Under the agreement signed by MSU acting president Ricardo de Leon and Five9 CEO Brian Silvermann, two 25-seat facilities will be established in the Islamic city of Marawi to train and eventually employ Arabic-speaking call center agents in Muslim Mindanao.

According to De Leon, the call centers to be put up in two of the MSU campuses will be the first in the Philippines to cater to the huge Middle Eastern market.

"This is part of the income-generating programs designed by the government to beef up economic activities in Mindanao, particularly among Filipino Muslims," he said.

De Leon said the two call centers, with combined 50 seats, would provide direct job opportunities to university and college graduates in Mindanao.

He said that once fully established, these call centers were also expected to train thousands of students in contact management using the Arabic language.

At present, the BPO sector employs 125,000 Filipinos. This is expected to increase to 2 million by 2010, according to the government.

De Leon said that establishing contact centers in Muslim Mindanao would help generate sustainable jobs, reduce unemployment rate, and eventually bring down the poverty level in the region.

Under the agreement, the MSU will roll out the infrastructure while the California-based Five9 will provide the technology for the call centers. The Commission on Higher Education will provide support fund to start the project.

Five9 is the leading provider of fully hosted system that enables companies to build contact centers without huge upfront investment.

The company is also behind the Virtual Contact Center (VCC), a revolutionary technology that allows small organizations to start a call center with minimal capital.

Five9 targets to establish cottage contact center businesses across the country and generate up to 90,000 call centers jobs in two years.

Taiwan expected to lift ban on RP young coconut exports

By Ronnel W. Domingo

EXPORTERS OF *BUKO* OR YOUNG COCONUTS to Taiwan may soon reclaim one of their nearest markets as Taipei has given its assurance that the ban imposed on the product due to fear of pests would be lifted, an industry group said.

The United Coconut Associations of the Philippines cited a report of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Manila that the Taiwan government had agreed to lift "in the near future" the ban following the recent meeting of a bilateral technical working group, which was focused on agricultural and fisheries affairs between the Philippines and Taiwan.

Ucap said the ban on the shipments of young coconut had been imposed since 1988 due to fear of the pests called *cadang-cadang*. Caused by viroids, cadang-cadang affected coconut plantations in Masbate, Camarines Sur, Camarines Norte, Albay, Catanduanes, Sorsogon, Quezon, Western and Northern Samar, and Biliran.

While Philippine authorities insisted that the disease was not harmful to humans and animals, Taipei had considered it a host pest that must be subjected to its sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) requirements.

Such fears have prompted other markets, such as the Middle East, to also ban incoming shipments of young coconuts from the Philippines.

According to the Manila Economic and Cultural Office, the government has been asking Taipei to lift the total ban on all Philippine coconut products that has been in effect since 1999 and to consider certifying imports on a per shipment basis instead.

Meco said exporters could earn some $3 million or about P150 million yearly if the export of coconut to Taiwan resumed.

For its part, Taiwan has been evaluating Philippine SPS measures as early as 2001, when the government had submitted data on the extent of the *cadang-cadang* problem in the country upon Taipei's request.

In 2003, the Philippine Coconut Authority adopted protocols to control the spread of cadang-cadang, data on which were also submitted to Taiwan for evaluation.

ERC exec seeks end to 'smear drive'

ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION (ERC) member Jesus Alcordo recently called on to the people behind the smear campaign against him to stop dragging him and the ERC to the issues on the Masinloc power plant privatization.

Alcordo said he had already received "highly credible information" on who the perpetrators of the smear drive were and their possible motives." I hope these people know that they are destroying other people's lives," he said.

Alcordo made the call in the wake of efforts to link him and the ERC to the ongoing privatization of the National Power Corp.'s 800-megawatt Masinloc power plant. YNN Holdings submitted the highest bid in the auction. ERC Chair Rodolfo Albano earlier said the ERC had nothing to do with the Masinloc sale.

The deal concerning the plant, he said, was under the supervision of the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (PSALM).

Alcordo earlier denied any link with the YNN group, saying he had divested himself of all interests in any private corporation as early as 2000. He said he had inhibited himself from any deliberation or decision when a party concerned was one he was involved with in the past.

TIGHTENING SIM cards trade may be the only way to curb cell phone-related crimes.

RAFFY LERMA

NTC wants compulsory SIM registration law

By Daxim L. Lucas

TELECOMMUNICATIONS REGULATORS want Congress to pass a law that would require buyers of prepaid subscriber information module (SIM) cards to register their personal details with mobile phone firms.

If enacted into law, the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) hopes that the more stringent rules would deter street crimes and petty thefts that have targeted mobile phone owners in recent years.

"We are supporting Congress' initiatives to require the registration of SIM cards because [NTC believes] this is one very important way of reducing the crime rate," NTC Deputy Commissioner Jorge Sarmiento said in a telephone interview.

In particular, the official said the regulator was supporting a bill proposed by Sen. Manuel Villar which required mobile phone stores and dealers to record the personal details of SIM card buyers.

The information is then stored in a data bank either with regulators or with cellular phone firms, which can then be accessed when mobile phone theft and other cell phone-related crimes occur.

"Cell phones have become so 'commoditized' that it's so easy to buy and sell them nowadays," Sarmiento noted, explaining the attractiveness of mobile phones as a target of crime.

He pointed to the alarming increase in crime statistics showing that victims were targeted—and sometimes killed—for their mobile phones.

Sarmiento said a legislation to tighten the cell phone trade—or at least those of the SIM cards required to operate them—might be the only way to deter these crimes.

"We issued a memorandum circular in 2000 requiring the registration of SIM cards but that has been the subject of a TRO (temporary restraining order) from the courts," he said.

Regulators' move to require prior registration of SIM card buyers was vehemently opposed by mobile phone firms for fear that the process would reduce their sales.

It is also opposed by civil rights advocates who fear that the government may use the registered information to erode the citizens' right to privacy.

Last week, operatives of the NTC and police officials raided several phone dealers in Marikina City as part of a campaign against the trade of fenced mobile phones.

"For now, we have a memorandum circular [requiring] the registration of these establishments," he said. "But it's still not very effective because of the sheer number of vendors around the country."

The NTC earlier teamed up with the Philippine National Police in a bid to clamp down on the booming cellular phone trade which they believe is encouraging criminality.

The primary target of the campaign is to address the illegal sale of lost or stolen cell phones as well as text scams.

3 firms vie for contract to oversee Post Office privatization

By Michelle V. Remo

THE GOVERNMENT HAS SELECTED three firms—ING, PriceWaterhouse-Coopers and Ernst & Young—to vie for the contract of financial adviser on the privatization of Philippine Postal Corp., which authorities are hoping to sell this year.

Crisanta Legaspi, deputy officer of the Privatization Management Office, told reporters that the three shortlisted candidates were told to submit their bids on or before June 28.

According to officials, the government has made it a policy to acquire the services of financial advisers when privatizing major state-owned assets.

"The financial adviser will determine the best way to privatize the government's 55-percent share in Philpost," Legaspi said on the sidelines of the contract signing sealing the sale of the former International School property to Century Properties Inc. last week.

The government fully owns Philpost, but the Postal Service Act of 1992 mandates it to sell a percentage of its shares. The government was not able to privatize the postal service immediately because of the state-owned firm's financial difficulty, which had discouraged investors in the past.

Finance Undersecretary Gabriel Singson Jr., who oversees the government's privatization initiatives, earlier said it was time to sell Philpost after the firm managed to get back in the black.

After years of losses, Philpost finally registered a net income of P99 million in 2004 as it generated gross revenues of P3.67 billion during that year.

Singson said that in the sale of 55 percent of Philpost, authorities are now choosing between holding an initial public offering or offering the shares through a direct sale.

He said officials dealing with the privatization effort preferred a direct sale. The financial adviser will get to decide on the mode of privatization.

The Arroyo administration has decided to sell Philpost, believing that the state-owned firm would be better off in the hands of the private sector.

Once sold to a private-sector investor, Philpost is expected to get a technological boost in an effort to enhance delivery of its services.

Aside from raising taxes, the government has identified privatization as a way to boost revenues and address its fiscal problem.

The government originally planned to raise P500 million from privatization this year. It later on raised its goal to P2 billion.

Philpost, once its sale pushes through, will be the second major state-owned asset to be privatized this year, following the sale of the former IS property.

The former IS property, which the school donated to the Philippine government, was sold to Century Properties for P1.432 billion. The purchase price was higher than the government's floor price of P1.186 billion.

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Gov't sees $1B in Malampaya royalties

From page B7

in royalties from the project.

Mañalac said the only cost that the consortium would have to recover each year, after the cost-recovery period lapses, would be the Malampaya project's operating expenses.

"But that will no longer be substantial," he said. "The proceeds that the government and the contractors would have to share would be bigger, as the 70 percent allotted for cost recovery would no longer be taken from the proceeds."

For PNOC-EC, however, Mañalac said this would mean lower revenues from the Malampaya project.

The state firm last year chalked up P6.7 billion in revenue, a 49-percent rise from 2004's P4.5 billion.

Bulk of this amount came from the Malampaya proceeds, which reached close to P5.1 billion in 2005.

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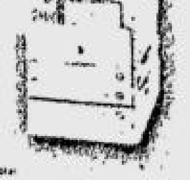
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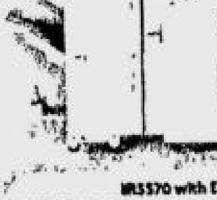
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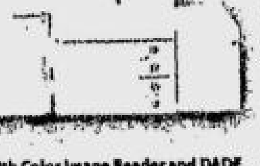
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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CAMPAIGN

In promoting iodine, Pacific Farms is worth its salt

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

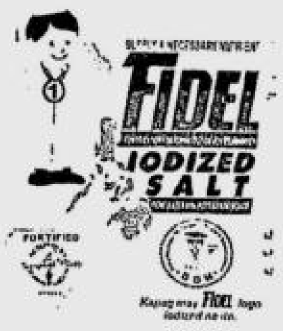
LITTLE THINGS MEAN A LOT.

In the case of iodine, a vital mineral needed for brain development, humans need only about 150 micrograms a day to keep the body humming with health.

The daily requirement is so minute that it will not even cover a pinhead. And yet, as many as four of ten Filipinos do not have enough of it, according to data from the Department of Health.

They run the risk of developing goiters or enlarged thyroid glands.

For pregnant women, iodine deficiency could lead to reproductive problems. And there's a big chance that the babies will be born with underdeveloped brains.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Fidel salt

Realizing the extent of the problem, the DOH, then under Secretary Juan V. Flavier, embarked on an aggressive campaign in 1992 to iodize salt and ensure that Filipinos get enough iodine.

Pacific Farms Inc., the country's largest salt producer with salt-making facilities in Bolinao, Pangasinan, answered the call for help by fortifying its salt with iodine.

Pacific Farms came up with its Fidel salt—which stands for Fortification for Iron Deficiency Elimination—and sold it nationwide through its marketing arm, Salinas Foods Inc.

CORPORATE CITIZEN

Salinas invested in the information campaign to alert the consumers and different government and non-government organizations to the need to add enough iodine to their diet.

It also invited individuals to sell its Fidel salt and earn extra income. Salinas reports that teachers, cooperatives, health workers and ordinary housewives now earn extra from selling iodized salt.

Sold by the can

Gerard Khong Hun, human resource manager of Pacific Farms, says that before the program was implemented, only 3 percent of salt sold in the market was iodized.

Iodine, he says, does not occur naturally to salt. It must be added through a process for the salt to absorb the mineral, requiring additional investments on the part of salt manufacturers.

Khong Hun says that, partly due to the distribution of Fidel salt, the volume of iodized salt in the market has increased to as much as 50 percent, with other salt firms joining the cause to sell iodized salt.

Khong Hun says Pacific Farms took the program a step further by standardizing the quality of its iodized salt and embarking on its own campaign to get the wet markets to sell iodized salt in packages, instead of the customary "takal" system where salt is sold by the can.

Cleaner

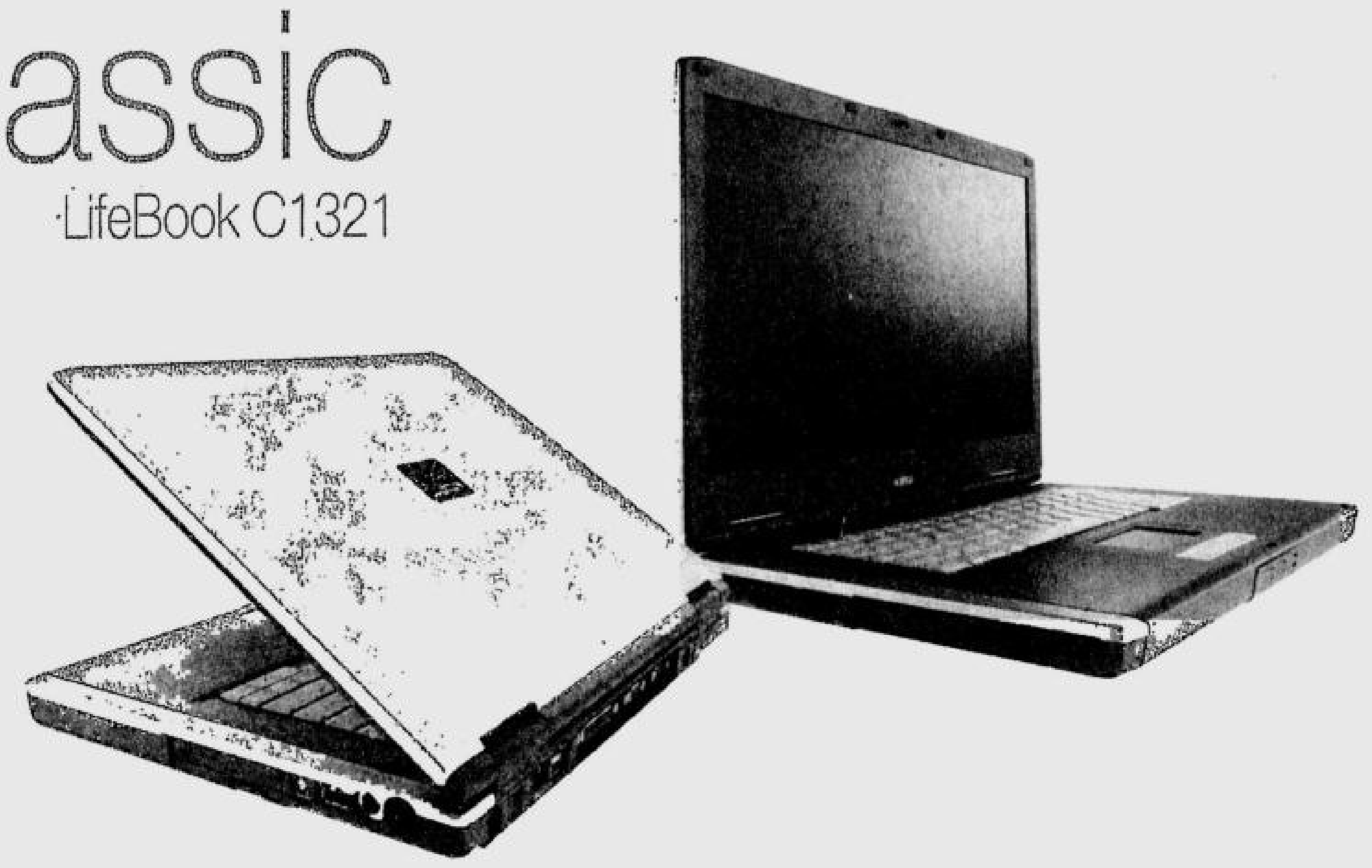
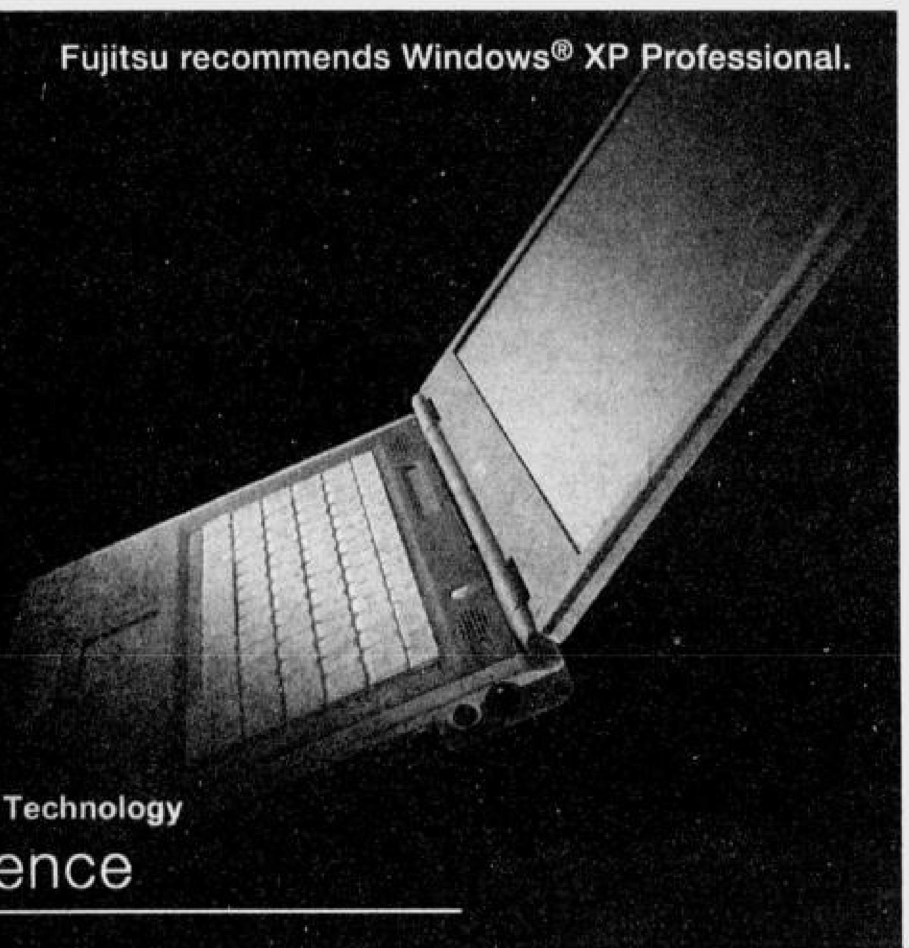
He says selling the salt out in the open defeats the iodization program because the iodine evaporates under the hot sun, not to mention that the salt is exposed to dirt and pollution.

Unfortunately, only 15 percent of iodized salt is sold in packaged form. The rest is still sold in the traditional way in wet markets.

"We are trying to convert the consumers to buy packaged iodized salt," he says. "Not only is it cleaner, but [consumers] can be sure of its quality."

In the meantime, Salinas continues with its information drive and participates in medical missions and feeding programs.

By doing so, Salinas helps fulfill the dream to have a new breed of Filipinos who are healthier and more intelligent, thanks in part to iodized salt.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Clark execs ready for Senate probe on bidding of Mimosa

Bid process was transparent, above board, CDC's Ng says

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC Zone—Officials of Clark Development Corp. said they were ready to face the Senate blue ribbon committee, which is set to investigate the alleged irregularities in the bidding of Mimosa Leisure Estate.

"We have a clear conscience. We followed the principles of fairness, accountability and transparency. Everything was aboveboard," Antonio Ng, CDC president, told reporters shortly after meeting leaders of Metro Clark Advisory Council (MCAC) last week.

CDC Director Benigno Ricafort said he and the members of the bids and awards committee, led by CDC vice president for finance Noel Manankil, would "do their best" to convince senators that government rules in bidding procedures were "strictly followed."

Ng defended the result of the bidding, saying it was "advantageous to the government."

Manankil said the winning bidder, NTM Jin Hung Joint Venture, placed a bid security amounting to P26 million, which is held in cash by CDC.

The firm committed P1.42 billion, more than thrice the required investment commitment of P380 million.

The joint venture also agreed to settle the balance of the total bid price of P1.65 billion on the third month, Manankil said.

The terms of reference included settling the arrears of Mondragon Leisure and Resorts Corp., which used to lease the 210-hectare estate until the government got back the estate in December 1998 due to unpaid rentals.

The winning bidder agreed to pay P500 million to the CDC, and P150 million to the Bureau of Internal Revenue and Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp.

It also agreed to pay P1 billion to four banks from which the MLRC owes a total of P2 billion in loans and interest. The United Coconut Planters Bank, Metrobank, Bank of the Philippine Islands and Land Bank of the Philippines agreed to waive half of the amount.

Jose Lucban, CDC legal officer, said there was no failure of bidding in the recent privatization program because one of the two final eligible bidders was disqualified due to late submission of bid documents.

At the MCAC meeting, Angeles City Mayor Carmelo Lazatin and Mabalacat Mayor Marino Morales admitted that the losing bidder, Avenue Asia, approached them for help.

Lucban told the mayors that Avenue Asia pulled out its bid documents instead of filing a motion for reconsideration.

BUYERS believe that vegetables from Baguio taste better than those grown in the lowlands

Baguio now a brand

BAGUIO CITY—THE SUMMER capital is now a brand, and government has realized that many of the hottest selling products labeled "Baguio" are actually made in other provinces, the Department of Trade and Industry said here last week.

This phenomenon has compelled nearby Benguet towns to improve on their homegrown products, like strawberry jams and salad vegetables of La Trinidad and brooms of Sablan, to avoid being displaced from their own niche markets, said Maritess Damian, Cordillera director of the DTI.

Brooms made of dried tiger grass have always been a favorite "pasalubong" (gift) for tourists, until a manufacturer in Southern Luzon admitted supplying the city markets with its own products.

The practice of passing off products as coming from Baguio has been going on for some time.

Manila markets still label salad vegetables such as potatoes, cabbages, lettuce, carrots and beans as Baguio crops, even if they actually come from La Trinidad.

Farmers from Benguet and Mt. Province are encouraged to say that their produce comes from Baguio to ensure the marketability of the vegetables.

Buyers believe that vegetables from Baguio are better tasting than those grown in the lowlands.

Baguio, however, is not earning from its name, the DTI said.

Damian said the DTI has no legal precedence to rely on should the city government decide to apply a patent for the Baguio name to earn royalties. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Iloilo to be developed as new technology hub

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—ILOILO HAS THE MAKINGS of a potential information and communications technology (ICT) hub, similar to Manila and Cebu.

Dondi Mapa, commissioner of the Commission on Information and Communications Technology, said the boom in ICT services was "crowding" the leading centers Manila and Cebu, opening opportunities for other areas like the cities of Iloilo, Bacolod, Dumaguete, Baguio and Sta. Rosa town in Laguna.

The five areas are considered the next ICT hubs.

Mapa said Iloilo has built-in advantages like the presence of many schools and universities, which could readily supply an English-proficient workforce for call centers.

Investments in ICT will provide employment opportunities in these areas, said Mapa.

He projected that there would be 28,000 workers employed in cyber services in Iloilo by 2010, which should nearly double to 50,000 by 2012.

This would follow the nationwide trend of around a million workers employed in ICT services by 2010 from the current 160,000. The number would double to two million by 2012.

"The workplace of the new Filipino is in cyberspace," Mapa said in speech at the launching of the Iloilo Foundation for Information Technology (I FIT) last week.

But Mapa said these areas should boost the training of their workforce by "revitalizing" the teaching profession to upgrade the standards of education.

He also urged the academe to spearhead programs on English proficiency.

He said students here should be better at English than many of those in Manila who tend to mix Tagalog and English words in their sentences.

"English (proficiency) is the key to cyberspace," he said.

Mapa said educational institutions and programs should also produce more graduates on human resource management because their services would be more in demand in the coming years.

He said the demand for human resource management students would reach 45,000 in 2010 from the present 18,000.

Moody's says RP banks' profits 'overstated'

From page B5

capital," it added.

The report noted that soft credit demand was further making it difficult for banks to earn their way out of the asset quality problems left over from the 1997 financial crisis.

But cited as among the strengths of the local banking sector were its experienced and professional management, reasonable levels of profitability among major banks and strong balance sheet liquidity, including a relatively high proportion of investment in government and corporate bonds.

"Given the challenges that banks face, the fragmented sector could undergo consolidation. Healthy mid-sized players eager to grow quickly are expected to look for acquisitions, which in turn would motivate large incumbents to pursue similar strategies to protect their market positions," Moody's said.

Recently, the Aboitiz group's Union Bank of the Philippines acquired a dominant stake in International Exchange Bank for about P13.5 billion, a deal that would create the country's ninth biggest bank.

The merger between the two medium-sized lenders would boost UBP's assets to about P168 billion.

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Software giant Microsoft eyes new leaders for post-Gates era

MUNDIE to take over as visionary

SEATTLE—MICROSOFT CORP. picked two well-respected technical minds to fill the void from founder Bill Gates' pending departure in two years, but it also identified a next tier of leaders charged with reinventing the software giant to compete against younger, agile rivals.

Grabbing headlines in Thursday's announcements were Ray Ozzie, 50, who assumes the company's top technical mantle as chief software architect, and Craig Mundie, 56, who takes over some of Gates' role as long-term visionary.

But Microsoft also tapped a next tier of technical talent in J. Allard, Steven Sinofsky and Bob Muglia—executives in their 30s and 40s—to play a larger role in shaping the company's future business and technology strategy.

Analysts said all three have won the respect of Microsoft's rank-and-file programmers with deep technical knowledge and an understanding that technology improvements cannot come at the expense of delays to new products, a problem that has plagued the company's mainstay Windows division.

An ability to ship new products in a timely manner seems all the more important in light of investor perceptions that Microsoft has been outmaneuvered by aggressive and more agile competitors like Google Inc. and Yahoo Inc.

The decision by Gates to step back from Microsoft in two years follows longtime Windows guru Jim Allchin's plan to retire after Windows Vista ships in 2007, representing a changing of the guard at the Redmond, Washington-based company.

"The world has had a tendency to focus a disproportionate amount of attention on me. In reality, Microsoft has always had an unbelievable strong depth and breadth of technical talent," Gates said at a news conference on Thursday.

Sinofsky, 40, earned his stripes as the head of product development for the Microsoft Office business software team, gaining a reputation as a tough taskmaster with an ability to meet targeted release dates.

Earlier this year, he took on the role of leading the team of developers creating the next version of Windows after Vista.

Sinofsky's responsibilities include integrating the operating system with a set of Windows Live Web-based services.

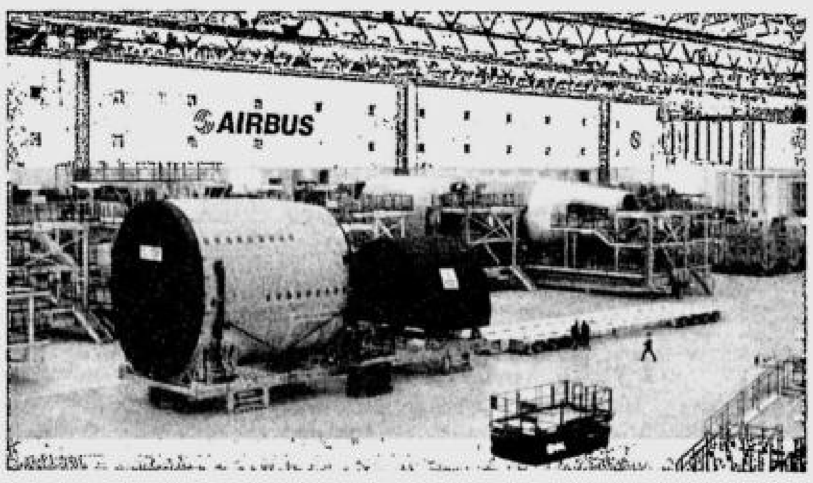
Allard, 37, gained prominence with a note he sent to Microsoft leaders about the looming importance of the Internet, which became the basis for the company's change of strategy to embrace the Internet in the mid-1990s.

An avid video game player, Allard now oversees the engineering and design of the Xbox game console. He pushed Microsoft into online gaming well before rivals Sony Corp. and Nintendo Co. Ltd.

Muglia, 46, has the longest track record of the three at Microsoft, having joined the company in 1988.

As the senior vice president of Microsoft's server and tools business, Muglia needs to keep outside developers happy with its tools and technology professionals using its servers. *Reuters*

Pressure on Boeing as Airbus falters



AIRBUS told clients last week that deliveries of its A380 would be delayed by six to seven months because of a production problem. AFP

NEW YORK—THE LATEST SLIP-UP by Europe's Airbus—whose giant A380 jet is now more than a year late and mid-sized A350 set for a total redesign—appears to hand US rival Boeing Co. a golden opportunity to take back domination of the commercial jet market.

But the US plane maker, which has trailed Airbus in orders for the last five years, faces a tough schedule of its own as it aims to put its hot-selling 787 Dreamliner into service by 2008, and may not be able to ramp up production quick enough to take advantage of Airbus' missteps.

"Boeing has huge challenges in front of it, nothing has changed there," said Richard Aboulafia, an analyst at aerospace consultants Teal Group. "It's high-risk, high pay-off—there's no getting around that equation."

Boeing is literally creating a new mold for jetliners with the 787, whose fuselage is primarily made of carbon composite materials baked into shape, while it is outsourcing production more than ever.

The plane—which promises fuel savings for airlines and chic, roomy cabins for passengers—has crushed Airbus' rival A350 in sales since its launch two years ago.

But media reports of 787 production problems, and memories of Boeing's disastrous attempt to ramp up production during the last peak in orders in the late 1990s, hang over the company.

"The biggest risk is if (the 787) just doesn't deliver as advertised, or ends up costing more to build than the price it was sold at," said Aboulafia.

James McNerney, its new chief executive—the third in as many years—is also still learning the ropes after less than a year at the helm.

Even so, investors are backing Boeing.

Its stock has risen 11 percent since Airbus announced a new six-month delay to its A380 double-decker superjumbo late on Tuesday. Boeing shares are now trading just below their all-time high hit in May.

Industry-watchers say Boeing has got the market right—with its 787 outselling Airbus' A350 almost four to one—which will help overcome production hiccups and the challenges of expanding production.

The view on Wall Street is that Boeing will spend as much as it takes to get the 787 out on schedule to avoid Airbus-like setbacks.

There is hope that Boeing will manage a ramp-up in production better than it did last time it had a surge in orders, in the late 1990s, when it fouled up processes at its own plant, and fell out with suppliers over prices.

This time around, Boeing has spent time lining up a team of suppliers which are building about 60 percent of the plane's structure, so a ramp-up in 787 production should not overly stress Boeing.

With demand for the 787 holding steady, Boeing has said it is considering opening a second production line for the plane, which is set to have its first flight next spring and enter service in 2008.

With Airbus dithering about what to do with its rival A350—which is not likely to enter service before 2012—Boeing could have a valuable window to trounce its competition, said Aboulafia. *Reuters*

Doha failure a blow to economy, IMF says

Bilateral trade deals no substitute–Rato

IMF MANAGING director De Rato REUTERS

WASHINGTON—INTERNATIONAL MONETARY Fund chief Rodrigo Rato said on Friday failure to reach agreement on the so-called Doha round of world trade talks would be very damaging globally and more complex webs of bilateral trade deals would be no substitute.

In a speech delivered earlier in Wellington, New Zealand, the IMF managing director said increased trade, bolstered by multilateral agreements, has been a cornerstone of growth in the global economy for many years.

"But time is running out on the next stage of multilateral trade reform, the Doha Round. Failure would be very damaging," Rato said in a statement.

"I would urge all parties to look beyond narrow defensive interests and demonstrate their willingness to negotiate a substantive agreement in the time that remains."

The so-called Doha Development Round of World Trade Organization talks was launched in 2001 to boost the world economy and lift millions out of poverty by lowering trade barriers.

But talks have repeatedly run aground as rich and poor countries quarrel over who should cut trade barriers first and to what extent.

Agriculture has been a key sticking point.

Teams of officials from the 149 WTO member countries are struggling to reach a deal by the end of this month on how to cut tariffs and subsidies in both agriculture and manufacturing in the hope of keeping a broader pact on track.

Rato bemoaned a growing disillusionment with the multilateral process and said he was concerned about the extent to which countries were now turning to bilateral and regional trade deals instead.

"These agreements can certainly be useful, especially if they are combined with significant non-discriminatory liberalization and if they contain transparent, simple and liberal rules of origin," Rato said.

"But they can also be a distraction, result in trade diversion, and can be confusing to exporters."

Rato cited what has been called the "Asian noodle bowl"—which contains many competing and overlapping agreements—as an example of such a web of agreements whose net effects on global and even regional trade are "uncertain."

"The answer is not necessarily to forego all bilateral agreements, but to ensure that these are well-designed and that they are complemented by the further liberalization of trade with all partners," he said. *Reuters*

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Professor, San Beda College

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The Enigma of Marketing Mix in Today's Business Environment: Hit or Miss!
Speaker: *DR. LEONARDO R. GARCIA, JR.*
Full Professor, Marketing Dept.
De La Salle University-Manila

Session 2 – 10:00AM – 11:00AM
Consumer Analysis: Its Effect to Business Strategy
Speaker: *MR. RICKY DE VERA*
President
Pinpoint Direct Marketing

Session 3 – 11:00AM – 12:00Noon
Market Segmentation, Targeting and Positioning: Crucial Effect to Business Strategy
Speaker: *MR. BIENVENIDO POLICARPIO**
President
Prudentialife Market Resource Corp.

12:00Noon – 1:00PM – LUNCH
Session 4 – 1:00PM – 2:00PM
Connecting with your Consumers through Effective Communication
Speaker: *MR. RAMON 'Bong" OSORIO*
President, Campaign Advocacy

Session 5 – 2:00PM – 3:00PM
Mapping the Winning Strategies for Tougher Times
Speaker: *DR. MARIVIC M. AC-AC*
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Wall St. digs in for long summer

ANALYSTS say Wall St. is not yet out of the woods despite a recovery last week. AP

NEW YORK—THE US STOCK MARKET FOUND some stability over the past week as investors put aside fears of an economic slowdown and higher interest rates, but analysts say Wall Street may be in for a long, hot summer.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average gained 1.12 percent over the week to Friday to end at 11,014.55 while the tech-heavy Nasdaq composite lost 0.24 percent to 2,129.95.

The broad-market Standard and Poor's 500 gave back 0.06 percent to 1,251.54.

The main indexes stabilized following the worst week of the year on Wall Street, but analysts say the market is not out of the woods yet.

"Given the scope of the market's decline in recent weeks and the short-term technical deterioration in many areas as a result, I would expect stocks to engage in a sawtoothed trading pattern that reflects skittish psychology and resulting high reactivity to daily news stories," said Eugene Peroni, managing director of equity research at Claymore Securities.

"The inflation scare is exacerbated to some degree by the fact that Fed chairman Ben Bernanke is as yet an unknown entity. Wall Street is still striving to understand his verbal and body signals."

Analysts say the market is worried that Bernanke, to establish his credentials as an inflation fighter, may lift rates so high that it chills the economy or even provokes a recession.

The Fed is expected to raise rates by a quarter point for the 17th time, to bring the federal funds rate 5.25 percent by June 29. After that the picture is unclear.

Ethan Harris, chief US economist at Lehman Brothers, said Bernanke inherited a situation where inflation was rising even as the US economy was starting to cool, raising fears of "stagflation."

"This mild version of stagflation creates tough choices for the Fed, but the net effect is to add to the pressure for rate hikes," Harris said.

"To some degree the Fed is intentionally 'overshooting' in an attempt to ensure below-trend (economic) growth and resist inflation. There is also a risk of unintentional overshooting. Business expansions generally do not die of old age but are killed by a combination of an inflation fighting Fed and an unforeseen second shock. We put the odds of a recession in 2007 at about 20 percent."

"In sum, the Fed faces a Hobson's choice," said David Kotok, chairman and chief investment officer at Cumberland Advisors.

"Raise rates to keep inflation from getting too hot and risk a slowdown in the economy. Or don't raise rates and risk inflation getting too hot. We worry that the Fed will fail to walk the fine middle line."

"Either way this promises to be a rocky summer with a slowing economy, housing downturn, high and persistently pressured energy prices and increased global uncertainty about energy supply," Kotok added.

In the coming week, the market will see only a handful of economic indications including housing starts and durable goods orders. More significant will be the June 29 decision on rates by the Federal Reserve, and the subsequent second-quarter earnings season.

Claymore's Peroni said he is optimistic the market will rebound, but cautioned investors to be patient.

"Investors will probably await the Fed's decision and policy statement near months end and try to get a better handle on the earnings picture for the second quarter," he said.

"This puts the timeline for a possible summer rally sometime after the July 4 holiday." The bond market retreated. Yields on the 10-year Treasury bond rose to 5.128 percent from 4.981 percent a week earlier and the 30-year bond yielded 5.172 percent from 5.033 percent. Bond yields and prices move in opposite directions. *AFP*

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The Ilocos Norte Electric Cooperative, Inc. (INEC) invites qualified bidders for the long term supply of the INEC's power requirements commencing in the year 2010.

Interested parties shall submit their company profile, duly notarized authorized representative and primary contact person to:

THE GENERAL MANAGER
Ilocos Norte Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Suyo, Dingras, Ilocos Norte

Starting on June 26, 2006 until July 21, 2006.

Only those qualified by the PBAC shall be invited to BID.

(Sgd.) **ROMILLAS C. PASCUAL**
General Manager

(PDI June 19, 20 & 21, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION
Citystate Centre, 709 Shaw Boulevard, Pasig City
Healthline 637-9999 *www.philhealth.gov.ph*

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

No. 2006-012-g

BIDDING FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF ME-5 REMITTANCE FORMS FOR THE EMPLOYED SECTOR

The **Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth)**, through the Corporate Operating Budget (COB) 2006 intends to apply the sum of **Php 2,412,500.00** being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Procurement of ME-5 Remittance Forms for the Employed Sector. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

PhilHealth now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the said procurement with the following specifications:

JOB TITLE : ME-5 Remittance Forms for the Employed Sector
QUANTITY : 50,000 pads (10,000,000 sheets)
(50 sets per pad @ 4 copies per set)
SIZE : Width : 7.75 inches
Length : 5 inches
MATERIAL : "Quality" Colored Carbon-less Paper
Impression must be clear up to the last ply
1st Ply – White Carbon-less paper
2nd Ply – Yellow Carbon-less paper
3rd Ply – Green Carbon-less paper
4th Ply – Pink Carbon-less paper
Wrapping Paper Cover
Chipboard Back Cover
PROCESS : Offset Printing / Red Gum Padded
Back to back printing on all copies
Serial Numbers : Pre-numbered (9 digits)
All Numeric (Crash Numbering)
50,000 pads
Packaging : 50 pads per corrugated box
Serial numbers must be posted on two (2) opposite sides of the box.
Delivery :

Schedule of Delivery	ME-5		Delivery Date
	Sets	Series Nos. (From - To)	
1st	18,000	213237501 - 214137500	15 days after notice to proceed
2nd	16,000	214137501 - 214937500	15 days after the first delivery
3rd	16,000	214937501 - 215737500	15 days after the second delivery

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the "Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino Citizens/Sole Proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino Citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 and subject to Commonwealth Act 138. Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to the technical and financial requirements. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who would be determined as such after the post-qualification procedure.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the **Office of the Secretariat for the Bids and Awards Committees (OSBAC)** in the Central Office of PhilHealth, Room 1107 11th floor Citystate Centre, 709 Shaw Blvd., Pasig City, and inspect the Bidding Documents from **8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

A complete set of Bidding Documents should be purchased by interested Bidders from June 12 - 29, 2006 at the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of **P3,000.00** cash. The prospective Bidder or his authorized representative shall receive the Bidding Documents personally.

PhilHealth will hold a **Pre-Bid Conference** open to all interested parties on **June 30, 2006 at 10:30 a.m.** at the **OSBAC Conference Room** (Rm. 1106), PhilHealth Central Office, 11th floor Citystate Centre, 709 Shaw Blvd., Pasig City.

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the **OSBAC Conference Room on or before July 14, 2006, 10:30 a.m.** The official time shall be based on the wall clock located at the **OSBAC Conference Room.** Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Bid opening shall be on July 14, 2006, 10:30 a.m., at the **OSBAC Conference Room.** Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.

CY 2004 to CY 2005 is the relevant period for contracts which will be required to be submitted by PhilHealth.

PhilHealth reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Office of the Secretariat for the Bids and Awards Committees in the Central Office
MR. JOSEPH O. VERGARA
Rm. 1107, 11th Floor Citystate Centre, 709 Shaw Blvd., Pasig City
Tel. (02) 637-9999 locals 1128, 1130 and 1830
e-mail add: osbac@philhealth.gov.ph
Facsimile No. 637-4735
www.philhealth.gov.ph

(Sgd.) ATTY. VALENTIN C. GUANIO
Chairperson, Bids and Awards Committee for Goods and Services

(PDI - June 12 & 19, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Justice
Bureau of Corrections
Davao Prison and Penal Farm
Davao del Norte

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Davao Prison and Penal Farm, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites prospective bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project : Food Catering Services
Location : Davao Prison and Penal Farm, B.E. Dujali, Davao del Norte
Brief Description : Food catering to 4,038 inmates confined in the Davao Prison and Penal Farm plus 10% projected increase in inmates population (403 inmates) during the period or a total of 4,441 inmates
Approved Budget : 32,685,760.00
(4,441 inmates x 184 days x P40.00/day per inmate
Contract Duration : 184 days (six (6) months) upon approval of the Memorandum of Agreement

The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted. All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities, as follows:

	Activities	Schedule	Venue
1.	Issuance of Bid Documents	June 13, 2006	DPPF Supply Office
2.	Pre-bid Conference	June 20, 2006, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	DPPF Social Hall
3.	Submission of Bid Documents	July 4, 2006, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	– do –
4.	Opening of Bids & Evaluation	July 4, 2006, 1:30 p.m. Onwards	– do –

Bid documents may be obtained at the BAC Secretariat, DPPF, Davao del Norte, only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Two Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (P 2,500.00) to the DPPF Cashier.

The DPPF reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defects or informality therein without assuming any obligation whatsoever, or to accept proposal most advantageous to the government and assumes no responsibility to compensate or indemnify to any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

(Sgd.) **ENGR. RUFINO A. MARTIN**
Chairman BAC

(Sgd.) **GERARDO F. PADILLA**
Chairman TWG

Approved:

(Sgd.) **CATALINO A. MALINAO**
Penal Superintendent I

(PDI - June 12 & 19, 2006)

DAVAO CITY WATER DISTRICT

J.P. Laurel Ave., Davao City
Tel. # 221-9400

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

1. The Davao City Water District, with the Approved Budget for 2006 intends to apply the sum *(see schedule under 2)* being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under contracts as listed below. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at bid opening.
2. The Davao City Water District now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the following:

Package	DESCRIPTION	Approved Budget for the Contract	Bid Security (1% of ABC)	Cost of Bid Document
1	VARIOUS BRASS FITTINGS (REBIDDING)	P 2,579,000.00	25,790.00	1,500.00
2	2 sets Computer Aided Design and Drafting Software w/ complete user's Manual or Guide (REBIDDING)	500,000.00	5,000.00	1,000.00
3	Wall Mounted Chlorine Dioxide Generator System (REBIDDING)	600,000.00	6,000.00	1,000.00
4	Liquid Chlorine (REBIDDING)	5,083,200.00	50,832.00	2,500.00
5	12 UNITS – STAINLESS STEEL WATER STORAGE TANK (REBIDDING)	533,997.00	5.340.00	1,000.00
6	3 UNITS VIBRATORY RAMMER (REBIDDING)	391,000.00	3,910.00	1,000.00

3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belowing to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from *Davao City Water District* and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 a.m up to 5:00 p.m.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of non-refundable fee in the amount *(stated in item no. 2)*. The method of payment will be on Cash Basis. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. The *Davao City Water District* will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on ***July 10, 2006 at 9:00 o'clock A.M. at DCWD BAC-A Secretariat Office, J.P. Laurel Ave., Bajada, Davao City.***
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before the ***bidding scheduled time and date at 9:00 o'clock A.M.*** All Bids must be accompanied by a ***Bid Security*** in the form of *Cash or Manager's check* in the amount *(stated in item no. 2)*. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
8. Bid opening shall be ***at the DCWD BAC-A Secretariat Office, J.P. Laurel Ave., Bajada, Davao City*** *on the following schedule:*

PACKAGE No.	BIDDING SCHEDULE, TIME & DATE
1, 2 & 3	JULY 24, 2006 @ 9:00 A.M.
4, 5 & 6	JULY 24, 2006 @ 2:00 P.M.

Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representatives who choose to attend at the address below.

9. The *Davao City Water District* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Davao City Water District
BAC-A
J.P. Laurel Ave., Bajada Davao City
Tel. No. : 221-9400 (8000)
E-mail add : dcwd@davao-water.gov.ph
Fax No. : 224-5392
Website : www.davao-water.gov.ph

(Sgd.) **VIRGINIA S. MARIMON**
BAC-A Chairperson

(PDI – June 19 & June 26, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
NEGROS STATE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE
Kabankalan City, Negros Occidental
Cell Phone Nos. 09206238718/09173015565
Fax No. c/o OfficeCom-Kabankalan. (034) 471-3425

THE SEARCH COMMITTEE FOR THE NEGROS STATE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE (NSCA) PRESIDENCY

Announces the opening of the

SEARCH FOR NSCA PRESIDENCY

Minimum Qualifications:

1. A holder of a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)/Doctor of Education (Ed.D) or any earned doctoral degree in related academic fields;
2. Must have five years relevant managerial and administrative experience;
3. Must be a natural born Filipino citizen with proven integrity and not convicted with any administrative and/or criminal cases; and
4. Preferably not more than sixty (60) years old:

Applicants are requested to submit the following requirements:

5. Letter of Application;
6. Comprehensive Resumé supported with authenticated documents;
7. Vision and Mission for the Negros State College of Agriculture;
8. Birth Certificate, NBI, Ombudsman and Police Clearances, and disclosure of Assets and Liabilities and current and pending administrative/criminal case/s;
9. Service Records
10. Physical, psycho neuro and drug test

In addition, applicants are requested to submit five (5) sets of formal applications and certified support documents not later than **July 15, 2006** to

Dr. Wenceslao O. Sison, Jr.
c/o DR. MILAGROS M. ROMERO
Member, NSCA Search Committee for Presidency
CHED Regional Office VI
# 12 New Washington Street, Jaro, Iloilo City
Tel. No. (033) 3206976

and for queries, please contact the Secretariat, through the Board Secretary, Nelly Navales-Cabual, Negros State College of Agriculture, Kabankalan City, Negros Occidental with contact Numbers 09173015561 or 09206238718.

(PDI – June 12 19 & 26 2006)

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OBITUARIES

Rosalinda Novero-Sison

of Indang, Cavite and Sampaloc, Manila

died in the peace of the Lord on June 08, 2006 at the age of 90.

The bereaved children **Artemio & Isabelita Salvador; Purificacion;Consorcia; Eugenio** and **†Perla Galvez, Eduardo & Baby Perez; Alberto & Carmen Balis; Imelda; Ricardo & Urcena Villalon; Amelia & Sabir Naseem**; grandchildren **AJ, BJ, Liezle, Ben, Baby, Bongbong, Sandy, Jomar, Yeye, Apollo, Mervin, James, Dianne, Wilbert, Rocelyn, Ambet, Michael, Nadine, Sheila, Dino, Renren, Maan, Balong, Abia, Omar**; great grandchildren **Eugene, Stephen, Dianne, Gingging, Biel, Pia, TJ, Yannah, Pao, Dwight, Cheska, Jek, Jok, Philip & Elaine** request relatives and friends to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Our Lady of Loreto Church, Bustillos St., Sampaloc, Manila.

Holy Mass will be celebrated at 9:00 a.m. and followed by interment on Thursday, June 22, 2006 at the North Cemetery, Manila.

"Whoever serves Me must follow Me,
and where I am, My servant also will be"
John 12:16

MARCELO B. CONCEPCION

In Peace and Grace joined his Creator
on June 17, 2006 at the age of 76.

His bereaved wife **FELY**; children **MARISSA & PAUL, AMY & ART, BOYET & TITA, JOEY, ACHIE & EDGAR, EDWIN & GJOAN** request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Arlington East Chapel at C. Raymundo Avenue, Pasig City.

Interment will be on June 21, 2006 at the Pasig Catholic Cemetery after the 1:00 p.m. Mass at the Sumilang Barrio Chapel.

"...absent from the body to be present with the Lord."

– 2 Corinthians 5:8

"For God so loved the world, that He gave us His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have Everlasting life."—John 3:16

CLASSIFIEDS

Republic of the Philippines
PHILIPPINE RECLAMATION AUTHORITY
(Public Estates Authority)
7/F Legaspi Towers 200 Bldg., 107 Paseo de Roxas St., Legaspi Village, 1226 City of Makati
Tel. Nos. (02) 817-4711 to 13; (02) 813-1441 to 45; Facsimile No. (02)815-2662
Website: www.pea.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

SECURITY SERVICES FOR (PRA) PROPERTIES

Engage the services of a security agency that shall secure and protect the Philippine Reclamation Authority (PRA) Office and its various properties

1. The Philippine Reclamation Authority (PRA), through its corporate budget intends to apply the sum of **Ten Million Five Hundred Thousand Pesos (Php 10,500,000.00)** being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for Security Services for PRA Properties. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. The PRA now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the Security Services for PRA Properties for one (1) year. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Annex C of the Terms of Reference (TOR).
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act." Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the BAC Secretariat and inspect the Bidding Documents starting June 19, 2006 from 8:00AM to 5:00 PM.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased from June 19 to 26, 2006 by interested Bidders from the BAC Secretariat and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of Ten Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (Php 10,500.00). The method of payment will be cash or check payable to PRA. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. The PRA will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on June 27, 2006 at 10:00 A.M. at the PRA Conference Room, 8th Floor Legaspi Towers 200, Paseo de Roxas, Makati City.
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the PRA Office on or before July 11, 2006 at 10:00 A.M. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form and amount indicated in the Terms of Reference (TOR). Late Bids shall not be accepted.
8. Bid opening shall be on July 11, 2006 at 10:15 A.M. at the PRA Conference Room, 8th Floor Legaspi Towers 200, Paseo de Roxas, Makati City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
9. Prospective Bidders should have undertaken a similar project within the last three (3) years with amount not less than Php10,500,000.00, and should have key personnel and equipment available for the prosecution of the project.
10. Pursuant to BIR Revenue Regulations 03-2005, all prospective bidders are mandated to file their income and business tax returns electronically using the Electronic Filing and Payment System (EFPS).
11. The PRA assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.
12. The PRA reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) **JOSEFINA L. CASTRO**
BAC Chairperson

(PDI--June 10 & 19, 2006)

CENTRAL PANGASINAN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
San Carlos City, Pangasinan
Tel. # (075) 532-2222 / (075) 532-3146

INVITATION TO BID

The CENTRAL PANGASINAN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. (CENPELCO) with office address at Padilla St., San Carlos City, Pangasinan is in need of the following grounding mat materials and accessories for Labrador and Binmaley Substations;

	MATERIAL DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY
1.	#4/0 Hard Drawn Copper Wire	1000 meters
2.	#1/0 Hard Rawn Copper Wire	150 meters
3.	Copper Rod, 5/8" x 10 Ft.	60 pcs.
4.	Cadweld Mold for Tee Connection 4/0-4/0	1 set
5.	Cadweld Mold for Cross Connection 4/0-4/0	1 set
6.	Cadweld Mold for Tee Connection 4/0-1/0	1 set
7.	Cadweld Mold for Copper Wire & Ground Rod	1 set
8.	Cadweld Powder for Tee Connection 4/0-4/0	84 pcs.
9.	Cadweld Powder for Cross Connection 4/0-4/0	68 pcs.
10.	Cadweld Powder for Copper Wire & Ground Rod	60 pcs.
11.	Terminal Lug Crimp Type for 4/0 long barrel 1/2 stud size	120 pcs.
12.	Air Terminal Solid Copper 36" x 5/8" dia With bronze base round flat surface with Ground clamp for 4/0 copper wire.	4 sets

Please submit bids/proposals for the supply and delivery of the above items on or before 2:00 PM (1400 hrs.) on June 28, 2006 (Wednesday) at CENPELCO main office wherein your bid will be opened in your presence or that of your representative/s.

Request further to include in your sealed bids/proposals **the delivery date, terms of payment, availability of stock, warranty period, brand** and other specifications for evaluation purposes. Please submit BID BOND equivalent to two and one-half percent (2-1/2%) of the total bid price if it is a cash or manager's check or if it is a surety bond it must be equivalent to ten percent (10%) of the total bid price. Bids/proposals submitted beyond the specified date and time will not be accepted.

CENPELCO RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS. WAIVE ANY OF THE REQUIRED FORMALITY THEREIN AND ACCEPTS THE BIDS ONLY DEEMED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE COOPERATIVE.

(Sgd.) RODRIGO F. CORPUZ
PBAC CHAIRMAN

Noted by:

(Sgd.) ENGR. EDGARDO R. PIAMONTE
Executive Officer/Project Supervisor

(PDI – June 17 & 19, 2006)

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List of Vacant Positions

(2) Teachers 1, SG-10, Item Nos. TCHI-54245-54215; Bachelor of Secondary Education or Bachelor's Degree plus 18 Professional units on Education. No experience required. Eligibility, LET

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Tel: 852 2910/11 loc. 110 Email: jeric.cupin@henrybutcher.com

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INTERNATIONAL REAL ESTATE FEDERATION WORLD CONGRESS IN BANGKOK

Bobby Sy (right), elected President for 2006-2007 of FIABCI-Philippines last May 9, joined 10 Philippine delegates to FIABCI's 57th World Congress in Bangkok, Thailand last May 26-31, 2006, where 2005-2006 FIABCI World President Dató Alan Tong Kok Mau (middle) handed over the 2006-2007 FIABCI World Presidency to Owen Gwyn (left). Others in photo include FIABCI-Malaysia President Dató Ir Teo Chiang Kok (2nd from right) and 2006 NAR-National Association of Realtors President Tom Stevens (2nd from left). FIABCI is the French acronym for *Federation Internationale des Administrateurs de Bien – Conselis Immobiliers* otherwise known as the INTERNATIONAL REAL ESTATE FEDERATION, a 57-year old international federation consisting of more than 60 chapters across the world, with more than 100 professional associations in membership having a combined membership of 2 million practitioners around the world. FIABCI holds an enviable reputation and special status at the United Nations as the voice of the private sector in real estate and pursues a policy of "property ownership for all" in third world countries. The FIABCI-Asia Pacific Summit will be hosted by FIABCI-Philippines in October 2006 and is expected to be attended by industry leaders from the 11-member countries of the FIABCI Asia-Pacific region. Joining Sy in the governance of FIABCI-Philippines for 2006-2007 are Arch. Felino "Jun" Palafox as Chairman of the Board; Ms. Purita Soliven as Vice-Chair; Ambassador Rafael A. Gonzales as Executive Vice-President; Mr. Benson Perelonia as Secretary-General; Ms. Lilia Aaron-Paterro as Treasurer; and an advisory board consisting of Mr. Florentino Dulalia, Mr. Victorio Soliven, Mr. Pedro Tario and Atty. Romero Quimbo.

PMAP to hold series of seminars and workshops

THE PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION of the Philippines is sponsoring a seminar on Calculating Measurable Results and Tracking the Contribution of Training on June 22-23. The seminar aims to let the participants be able to design an evaluation system that will measure the results of training interventions in their respective organization. Seminar fee is P5,750 for PMAP Member and P7,250 for Non PMAP Member. At the end of this module, the participants will be able to design an evaluation system that will measure the results of training interventions in their respective organization.

The program entitled The Conduct of Administrative Investigation and Dismissal of Employees is scheduled on June 22-23. Registration fee is P7,200 for PMAP Member and P8,700 for Non PMAP Member. At the end of this session, the participants should gain a basic understanding of conducting an administrative investigation as well as the legal basis and procedural requirements for terminating employment.

A four-day workshop on Essentials of Human Resource Management is scheduled on June 26-29. This course aims to provide participants with a theoretical foundation as well as a perspective from which to view the overall human resource management function as it is integrated with the total corporate function. Participants will gain the needed knowledge and skills to enable them to perform the different functional operations in human resource management while providing them insights on current issues and trends involved in the practice of the profession. Registration fee is P9,400 for PMAP Member and P10,950 for Non PMAP Member.

For reservations, please contact The Human Resource Management Development Center at telephone numbers 726-1581; 726-1588 or 726-1532; email address: mira.jakosalem@pmap.org.ph or you may visit the website: www.pmap.org.ph

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RP team gunning for medals in World Cyber Games

By Erwin Oliva
Contributor

AFTER BREAKING LAST YEAR'S "CURSE of the first round," the Philippine Counter-Strike team is expecting this year to win a medal following a sterling performance in the World Cyber Games (WCG) 2005 held in Singapore.

Last year, the Counter-Strike team lived up to the WCG Philippine team leader and project manager Tjader Regis' prediction that the local team would "break the curse of the first round" and enter the single-elimination stage for the first time in the country's history of joining the WCG.

The Counter-Strike team, called "Horsemen of the Apocalypse," is composed of Justin Chan, Marc Vincent Agbisit, Jan Kristoffer Romillo, Paolo Nancho and Kenichi Enda.

During WCG 2005, the local Counter-Strike team defeated the Finnish professional gaming team Astralis, which was projected to win at least a bronze prior to the tournament.

This year, Regis is confident that the country's Counter-Strike team would go home with a medal since the Philippine players are becoming more competitive in the international arena.

The Philippine Counter-Strike team landed in 16th place in the world finals—a significant improvement since over half of the contestants are usually eliminated after day one.

"What makes the achievement of our team last year noteworthy is that they have won over professional gamers. We expect to do better this year. There will be a WCG Asia Tourney, a pre-event to the WCG Grand Final, where we expect to bring home a medal," added Regis.

RP Cyber-team ready to take on the world

The WCG Asia tournament will not have any bearing on who would qualify for the scheduled world finals in Monza, Italy scheduled October 18 to 22, the Philippine team leader said.

The WCG Asian tournament will be a different competition involving at least 10 countries in the region, including the Philippines.

Meanwhile, Samsung Electronics Philippines Corp. (Sepco), which has been supporting WCG steadily in the Philippines, said it would continue supporting the WCG. Every year, the local subsidiary of the Korean giant has been allocating $200,000 to support the WCG activities in the Philippines.

"Samsung continues to promote a positive attitude toward gaming as it recognizes the WCG as an effective channel to communicate with Filipino youth," said Spencer Shim, Sepco president. "We believe there is a strong need to nurture a healthy and sound cyber world. By supporting WCG, we want to promote gaming as a sport and encourage the Filipino youth to harness their skills so they can be among the best in the world."

The Philippine team will again compete in four video game categories this year: Counter-strike 1.6, Starcraft: Broodwar, Warcraft III: The Frozen Throne, and Need for Speed: Most Wanted—all for the PC.

The Philippine preliminaries will have over P1 million worth of prizes up for grabs, including the chance to represent the Philippines at the WCG Grand Finals in Monza.

Regis estimated that there are at least two million video gamers in the Philippines.

"The actual game is only the tip of the work that comes in developing such a community. E-sports open doors to a thriving industry that fuses creativity and technology," he added.

Regis announced also that this year's WCG Philippines preliminaries will be open, meaning Metro Manila players can now compete directly with other players from the provinces not only in the finals but in the preliminary eliminations.

Registration for the WCG 2006 Philippine Preliminaries is ongoing online until July 30 at www.ph.worldcybergames.com.

Yahoo! eyeing user-generated, licensed content for RP site

By Alexander Villafania
Contributor

A MONTH AFTER LAUNCHING ITS SOUTHeast Asian operations, online portal and web services firm Yahoo! is mapping out plans to increase user-generated content and add more localized services for its Philippine operations.

The front page interface for Yahoo.ph (www.yahoo.ph) would also be among the Southeast Asian Yahoo! portals to be given a fresh look in the next two weeks.

The changes and additional services would be made to all Yahoo! country websites worldwide.

Yahoo! Southeast Asia Sales Director Thomas Sipple said the company is actively in discussions with content and service providers for both the online and mobile telecommunications space as part of the company's portal build up.

One plan is to provide unique Yahoo! virtual IDs to Filipinos to allow for access to services either by using the Internet or mobile platform.

"What we're doing here in the Philippines is not just offering what is given by the main Yahoo! page, but finding the right mix of services that will spur Filipinos to keep coming back to the Yahoo! Philippines portal," Sipple said.

Sipple said Yahoo! is banking on the ubiquity of mobile phones, owned by nearly 40 million Filipinos. The intention is to make Filipinos use their mobile phones to access services usually reserved to Internet users.

"We'll have marketing plans to entice Filipinos that their phones can be their alternative access for online services," Sipple said.

Part of its marketing plan is to sponsor the first Asia Interactive Awards, which recognizes the creativity of web designers, online advertising agencies and media companies.

Scaling Text and Objects at the same time in Powerpoint

By: Jerry Liao

POWER-TIPS

1. SELECT ALL YOUR OBJECTS AND TEXT.
2. Go to Edit/Cut.
3. Go to Edit again and choose Paste Special.
4. From the As: options choose Picture, Click OK.
5. Hold the Shift key down, and scale the object using the corner handles to keep everything in proportion.
6. If you need to edit the actual text, simply go to Draw / Ungroup.

For more tips, visit www.brainshare.com.ph.

Announcement: Everyone is invited to attend the Powertips WirelessWorld Expo 2006 to be held on July 21-23, 2006 (Fri-Sun) at the Rockwell Tent, Makati City. Admission is free. For more details, visit www.infochat.com.ph/powertips.

For your comments and suggestions, please email techtvhost@yahoo.com.

hp

Breakthrough HP Blade Design Can Save Customers Millions in Data Center Costs

HP recently unveiled a breakthrough blade architecture that can save customers millions of dollars as they build out their data centers.(1) Three years in development, the HP BladeSystem c-Class leapfrogs the competition with innovations in virtualization, power and cooling, and system management capabilities that can reduce both operational and capital expenditure costs by 46 percent in a typical data center implementation.(1) In three industry firsts, the new HP BladeSystem enables users to wire computing resources once and change them on the fly, dynamically adjust power and cooling to reduce energy consumption, and increase administrative productivity up to tenfold.

The HP BladeSystem c-Class is also modular, allowing businesses of any size to start with HP ProLiant and Integrity servers, HP StorageWorks storage offerings as well as client blades and then flexibly add applications and third-party products to expand their data centers as needed. With the new design, an average enterprise data center can realize over a three-year period: system acquisition cost savings of up to 41 percent; data center facilities cost savings of up to 60 percent; and initial system setup time cost savings of up to 96 percent.(1)

The HP BladeSystem c-Class portfolio is a key part of HP's Adaptive Infrastructure offering, which helps customers move toward automated, "lights-out" computing environments that lower the cost of IT operations and deliver a higher quality of service. "The HP BladeSystem c-Class portfolio leverages the best technologies across HP – from NonStop servers to printers – and brings them together to fundamentally improve how our customers buy, build, manage and use their computing resources," said Diana dela Rosa, Manager, Enterprise Storage and Servers, Technology Solutions Group, HP. "By implementing a simple, 'out-of-the-box' design, customers can dramatically reduce the biggest IT cost drivers and barriers to change in today's racked, stacked and wired data centers."

New blade architecture delivers the future of business computing

Rethinking approaches to today's most pressing data center challenges, HP focused its HP BladeSystem innovations in three key areas: virtualization, power and cooling, and system management. The HP Virtual Connect Architecture solves networking complexity challenges by enabling customers to wire just once. For the first time, server administrators can manage resources on the fly via virtualized Ethernet and Fibre Channel connections, saving hours or days of administrative "wait time." The virtualization is coupled with the industry's fastest midplane and five terabits per second of aggregate throughput. This combination provides years of headroom for the most demanding environments and support connectivity options for leading network brands.

In addition, HP BladeSystem c-Class and StorageWorks Storage Area Networks (SANs) simplify IT consolidation by integrating the server-to-storage interface. The new HP BladeSystem 4Gb/s Fibre Channel SAN switches and the industry's first redundant, embedded 4Gb/s Fibre Channel HBA reduce the cost of SAN connectivity to HP BladeSystem by more than 40 percent while providing highly available, redundant connection to existing SANs. The switches also reduce the number of Fibre Channel cables required by up to 60 percent. Leveraging HP's company-wide focus on energy-efficient computing, HP Thermal Logic Technologies apply thermal controls to turn high density into a power and cooling advantage without compromising processing performance. For the first time, customers can minimize energy costs and environmental impact and ensure application availability with control efficiency at the component, enclosure and rack levels.

Related to this, the ultra-efficient HP Active Cool Fan cuts server airflow by 30 percent and energy consumption by 50 percent compared to traditional fans. In addition, the c-Class architecture can deliver power savings of up to 40 percent or more versus rack-mount servers.(2) HP Insight Control Management achieves a 200:1 device-to-administrator ratio – a tenfold improvement for many IT tasks – by integrating industry-leading system management tools from HP with the HP BladeSystem infrastructure. This combination unifies and automates management of physical and virtual servers, storage, networking and power and cooling through a single console. Paving the way for improved system management is the new HP Onboard Administrator, which integrates consumer-designed technology from HP's Imaging and Printing Group. This feature brings unprecedented simplicity to system management by using words and graphics so customers of all sizes can easily set up, control, monitor, troubleshoot and repair the c-Class infrastructure – all through built-in modules via a web browser and an industry-first two-inch, interactive LCD window.

HP builds out HP BladeSystem ecosystem

The HP BladeSystem Solution Builder program connects hundreds of independent software and hardware vendors, systems integrators and value-added resellers to develop and deliver a broad set of valuable offerings to customers worldwide.

Some of the application and hardware partners involved in the launch of c-Class include: AMD, Blade Network Technologies, Brocade, Cisco Systems, Citrix, Emulex, Intel, Mellanox, Microsoft, Novell, Oracle, PolyServe, QLogic, Red Hat, SAP, VMware and Voltaire.

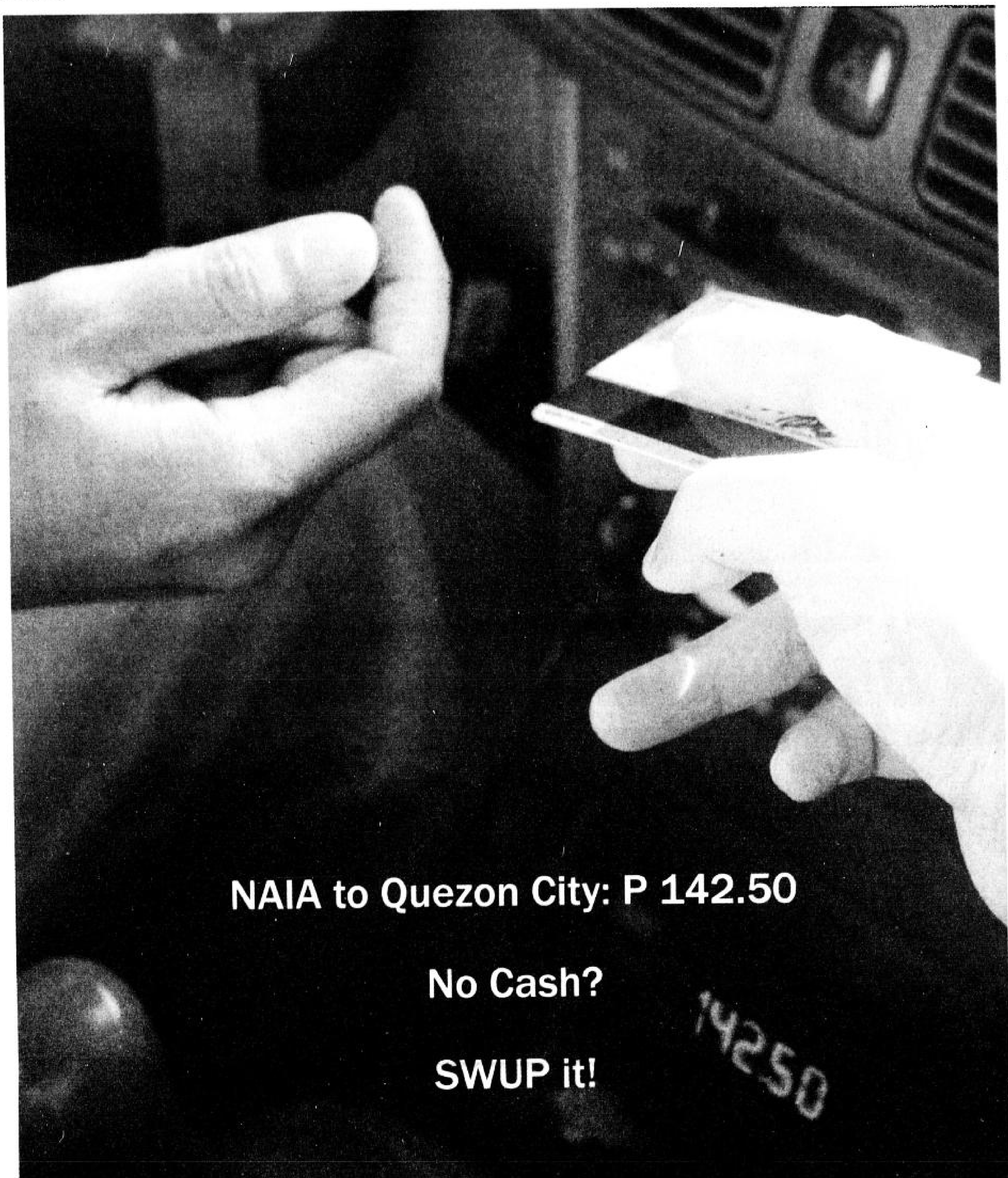
New c-Class server blades include the HP ProLiant BL460c and BL480c. The BL480c is the first blade server of its kind, matching the features of the HP ProLiant DL380 – the world's best-selling server – with support for the widest variety of applications on blades. Both the BL460c and BL480c have more than two times the memory, hot-plug drives and I/O expansion capabilities than the IBM HS20 blade.New HP services supporting c-Class include HP Enhanced Network Installation and Startup Service for HP BladeSystem Switches, a new HP Care Pack service offering that provides advanced configuration and testing of HP BladeSystem network interconnect devices to enhance the performance, scalability and reliability of the data center network. More information about HP Services for c-Class is available at www.hp.com/services/bladesystemservices.

To assure customers that they can continue to invest in and implement new industry-standard technologies without compromise, HP plans to upgrade product line roadmaps for the current HP BladeSystem p-Class through 2007. p-Class systems are fully interoperable with c-Class via common management tools, networking interfaces, power and racks. In addition, HP ProLiant p-Class server blades will be supported through 2012.

Pricing and availability

More information on HP BladeSystem c-Class is available at www.hp.com/go/bladesystem/evaluate.

(1) Based on an HP study of 320 servers over a three-year period. Actual cost savings is $2,603,453. Savings include costs for initial system acquisition, power and cooling costs, cable reduction and installation, Ethernet and Fibre Channel switch costs, integration of systems into data center racks, rack reduction, and benefits from infrastructure control software. Results may not be typical.
(2) Based on internal HP testing of similarly configured rack and blade servers running identical tests.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RP eyes increased trade with S. Korea

By Ronnel W. Domingo

TRADE BETWEEN THE PHILIPPINES AND South Korea is expected to increase further with the forging of a free trade pact between Seoul and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

Last May 27, nine Asean members, excluding Thailand, signed a trade pact with South Korea and agreed with the European Union to work harder toward a similar arrangement.

The signing highlighted the Third Asean Economic Ministers-Republic of Korea Consultations held in Makati City, which coincided with the 12th AEM Retreat.

Soulivong Daravong , trade minister of Laos and co-chair of the Asean-Korea meet, said in a briefing that the nine Asean members signed a Trade in Goods Agreement which paves the way for the Asean-Korea Free Trade Area.

The Philippines, thus, expects to further increase its trade with one of Asia's largest economies.

Simeon L Hernandez Jr., commercial counselor at the Philippine Embassy in Seoul, said South Korea moved up a notch to become the country's 9th-largest export market last year.

Hernandez said earnings reached $1.36 billion in 2005 from $1.11 billion 2004.

Sales to South Korea account for 3.37 percent of the total $42.25 billion in export earnings posted in 2005.

Hernandez added that the growth was driven by increased value of cargoes of some products under the categories of industrial and consumer manufactures as well as resource-based products.

The fastest growth was seen in electronic components and devices, including office equipment, which posted a year-on-year increase of 50.3 percent to $977.9 million.

Earnings from fresh foods like fruits, vegetables and meat increased by 73.8 percent to $51.7 million.

Coconut products and tobacco chipped in $29.3 million and $19.8 million, respectively, with increases of 67.8 percent and 516.7 percent.

LBP to boost rural lending

By Doris C. Dumlao

LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES plans to boost its countryside loan portfolio using $100-$150 million in new official development assistance from either the Asian Development Bank or Japan Bank for International Cooperation.

In an interview on the sidelines of the Landbank Awards for Outstanding Countryside Loan Fund (CLF) Friday night, acting bank president Gilda Pico said the last tranche of the CLF project would be fully disbursed this year.

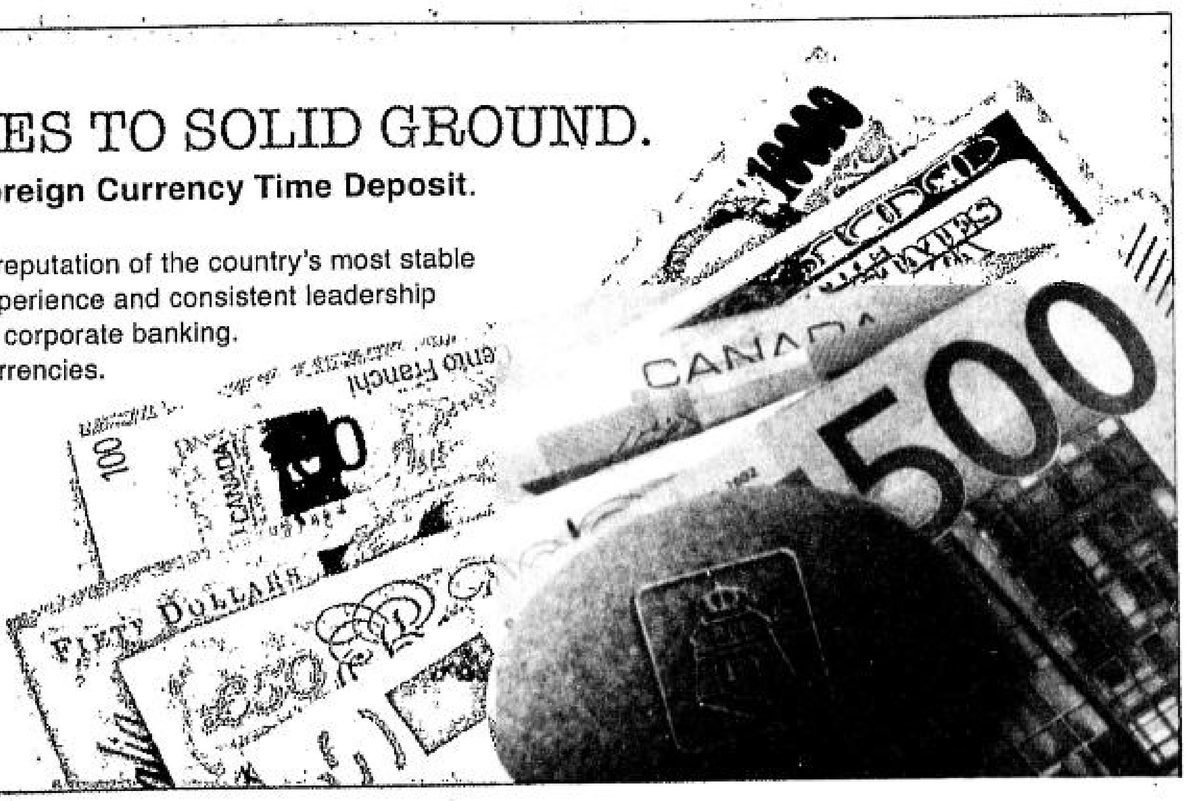
The CLF is a World-Bank initiated program to provide credit to micro, small and medium-scale entrepreneurs in the countryside using $450-million in low-interest funds.

Only $18 million of the fund has been disbursed so far, Pico said.

But instead of getting a new CLF tranche from the World Bank, Pico said Landbank would get a new ODA package from either the ADB and JBIC, which had offered to fund the countryside lending project.

"We hope to close it by next year," Pico said. As of end-2005, the bank has released P28.9 billion under the CLF through participating financial institutions.

Last year, it disbursed P1.2 billion for agri and aquaculture, food and agro-processing, manufacturing, project distribution, service, property development and tourism-related industries in the countryside.



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BUSINESS Monday

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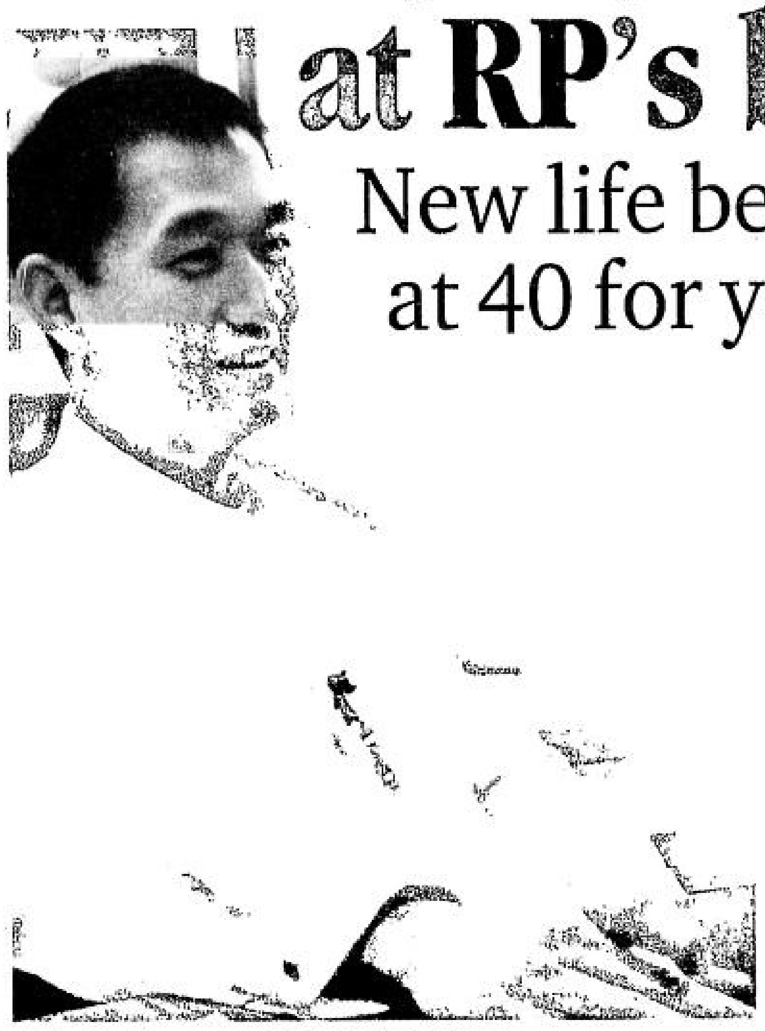
Changing of the guard at RP's biggest bank

New life begins at 40 for young Ty



Arthur Ty takes over as Metrobank president

By Doris C. Dumlao

HE HAS BEEN groomed to lead the Philippines' biggest bank since childhood, but the presidency was a plum post he still had to prove himself worthy of.

"There is no such thing as easy if it's important," says Arthur Ty, the new president of Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co., quoting one of the favorite sayings of his father, taipan George Ty.

The young and amiable Metrobank president says he will work hard to remain true to the bank's motto, which is to be "the biggest and the best—for clients, shareholders, employees and regulators."

"Not necessarily in that order," he says in jest.

He tells the INQUIRER that Metrobank is not content with being the country's number one bank in terms of assets, noting "there's always room for improvement."

He's also "conscious" of the few rivals in the industry who aspire to someday snatch from Metrobank the coveted title that the bank has held since 1996.

"It's something that we want to keep to the extent possible," Ty says, noting however that the bank has learned its lessons from the past and would not resort to another acquisition binge that it took a while to recover from.

Between 2000 and 2003, Metrobank, which had little experience in bank mergers and acquisitions, gobbled up three big banks: Solid Bank, Philippine Banking and Asian Bank. It also merged with its commercial bank subsidiary Global Business Bank.

That was the first time Metrobank became an acquirer, except when it bought a thrift bank in the 1980s—which later became Philippine Savings Bank.

By 1993, it overtook Bank of the Philippine Islands as the biggest private bank, then edged out then state-owned Philippine National Bank to become No. 1 in 1996.

"We're much stronger now than we were before," he says, and Metrobank is now again on the prowl for banks that offer good value for money and offer a good strategic fit with its own operations.

"So tell me, who's for sale?" he says.

On-the-job training

Ty, who was a Class A badminton player in his younger years, completed an undergraduate degree in economics at UCLA (1987) and an MBA specializing in banking and finance at Columbia University of New York (1991).

When he came back home, he accepted the position of account manager at Metrobank.

From there, Ty moved up to vice president in 1993, first vice president in 1996 and senior vice president in 1998. Between 2000 and 2002, he was appointed corporate secretary and was simultaneously the president of PSBank. He has also chaired Metrobank Card Corp. since 2002.

He joined Metrobank's board for the first time four years ago and was named executive vice president to predecessor Antonio Abacan, who now chairs the bank and for whom he has the highest respect.

"The one thing I admire about Mr. Abacan is the way he handles people. Even when he says no, he says it in a nice way," Ty says.

Ty was put to work across the bank's major businesses over the last 15 years, but Ty refuses to say which area he liked best.

"I enjoyed all of them," he says with a smile.

The changing of the guard comes as Ty turns 40. And having been there, done that—so to speak—he has a clear-cut vision of Metrobank's future and the management philosophy he'll live by.

"I believe in leadership by example ... I believe in people ... I believe in communication so you'd understand what is happening ... I believe in empowering people as long as they can exercise authority responsibly," he says.

"I believe we have to balance the interest of all stakeholders because sometimes, there are conflicts. What the clients want may not be what the regulators want, and what stockholders want in the short term may have conflict with long-term value," he explains.

Under his leadership, he has vowed to maximize the full potential of Metrobank's extensive 557 domestic branch network, expand

CHANGING/ B2-2

MetroHome Rate Protect Plus offers superior benefits to borrowers

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Metrobank consumer lending group head Rowena R. Oliveros said, "The MetroHome Rate Protect Plus offers borrowers a distinct advantage over the usual longer term, fixed pricing of other banks. They can take advantage of market rates - as low as 9% p.a. during the first five years of the loan. Plus, the interest rate is guaranteed not to exceed 11.5% p.a. for 10 years."

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On the 6th to the 10th year, the loan carries a fixed rate of 11.5% p.a. "By fixing the interest rate on the 6th year onwards, borrowers are spared the surprises of rate surges when they are nearing repayment," adds Oliveros.

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Educating future farmers

(First of two parts)

MAPping the Future

Dr. Jose Rene C. Gayo

WHERE ARE OUR FARMERS today?

The great majority of Filipino farmers today belong to the poorest of the poor. This is due largely to decades of wrong policies and programs that are biased against agriculture, low productivity of farms, and poorly educated farmers.

A typical Filipino farmer today has reached only Grade 5 and in his mid-50s. Because of this situation, young people don't see a future in farming.

Contrast this, however, in countries like Denmark and the Netherlands and closer home, Taiwan, Korea and Thailand where farmers earn a decent income tilling their farms as big as those of the average Filipino farmer. Why are their farmers much richer than their Filipino counterparts?

Rural development

Though the problem is so complex, one major factor that will explain the big difference is the level of education that the farmers in those countries have over our Filipino farmers.

Education, as we all know, is the key for improving the lives of people. Farming is no exception. The Family Farm Schools (FFS) were established with the primary objective of uplifting the lives of those from the rural areas, especially those engaged in agriculture.

The FFS started in France. The first of such schools was put up in 1935 and now has spread to over 26 countries all over the world with schools numbering over 1,000. It was introduced to the country in 1988 under the auspices of the Pampamilyang Paaralang Agricultura Inc. (PPAI) with the establishment of the Dagatan Family Farm School in Lipa City, the first in Asia.

Since then, five other schools have been established: Balete, Batangas; Dingle, Iloilo; Bais, Negros Oriental; Tuy, Batangas, and Roxas, Oriental Mindoro. Under the DepEd, these FFS offer a three-year regular high school plus training in agriculture.

As such, it caters especially to children of farmers. They are taught and trained with their parents' help in theoretical and practical agriculture methods. They are also taught human, social, and moral values and the right sense of professionalism in the performance of work.

The professional formation acquired in the FFS prepares students to exercise a profession in farming coupled with a technical and entrepreneurial training that will hopefully plant the seed for a strong agricultural economy.

Unique to the FFS system is the alternating cycle of education where students spend a week in a "live-in class" at the school and two weeks in their Family Farm.

This system facilitates the learning process by not only confining it within the four walls of the classroom but allows the youth to learn through their continuous and direct contact with reality, thus avoiding the real danger of alienating them from their environment.

While at the family farm, the students analyze those experiences and place them all in the family farm notebook. The alternating cycle also affords parents to participate actively in the education and formation of their children.

Tutors (teachers are called by this name) of the FFS visit each family in each of the alternating cycles and help both parents and child to think together and work out a project for the improvement of their farm as well as to help them have deep family ties through the formation given them.

The curriculum of the FFS applies the principle of the Dual Training System. The FFS is the first educational institution in the Philippines to apply it to agriculture education.

Following the general plan for all high schools, the course of study also includes the following: Agricultural technology, values education, farm management, basic accounting, cooperativism, agricultural mechanics, and crop/animal production.

While at school, the students go for a study visit to different places such as agricultural institutions and enterprises in relation to the diverse study themes per alternating cycle. Weekly, professionals are invited to give lectures on topics related to the study themes of the alternating cycle.

Parents also undergo formative training modules so that they are able to participate actively in the child's education. A strong parent association is formed, who together with the students help to put up livelihood projects that benefit the whole community.

In all this, experts and professionals are invited to give special lectures on topics related to the community projects.

The other unique aspect of the FFS is the guiding philosophy that each school is an association of families, professionals and institutions that assume the responsibility of development and the promotion of the rural environment through integral educative actions, especially with the youth as a way of responding to common problems.

As such, the schools are built on four pillars:

1. Families and institutions organize and are responsible for the association.
2. Education via the alternating cycle systems that links the socio-professional environment and the school.
3. Individualized integral formation and life projects prepare students to decide on their own training and their own future.
4. Rural development is both platform for his training and collective beneficiary of the systems initiatives. ***(To be continued)***

(The article reflects the personal opinion of the author and does not reflect the official stand of the Management Association of the Philippines. The author is the project manager of MAP's Farm Business Schools Program under the agribusiness committee. He was the founding dean (1996-2004) of the University of Asia and the Pacific School of Management. Presently, he is the executive director of Paref Southridge School in Alabang and trustee of the Meralco Foundation. Feedback at mapsec@globenet.com.ph)

Grand plans set for seaweed industry

Master plan prepared to generate ₱1B in investments in Sitangkai

By Julie S. Alipala
PDI Mindanao Bureau

SITANGKAI, TAWI-TAWI—A MASTER plan has been prepared to generate more than P1 billion worth of financial, technical and material support from local, national and foreign stakeholders for this town's main industry—seaweed production.

The pledges of support excite seaweed farmer Almodier Abduraup, 26, married with three children.

Abduraup is one of the 137 *pondohan* leaders whose lives depend on seaweed farming. The master plan has given him and the whole town hope for a better life.

A *pondohan* is a cluster of communities. Each cluster is composed of 35 to 100 households engaged in seaweed farming.

He complained of poor delivery of basic services to the communities here.

"*Wala kaming eskwelahan dito, kahit* health center, *wala* (We don't have a school, even a health center here)," he said.

Residents have to travel for two hours by sea to get to the mainland where the nearest school and health center are.

But things are looking up for the community.

"We are very happy. We are hoping that through this master plan, all the manipulations by the capitalists will stop and we will finally be able to sell directly to the market," said Abduraup, who maintains a five-hectare seaweed farm.

In August last year, development organizations and representatives from the Sitangkai municipal government met and held a workshop in Cebu City to discuss the development of the Sitangkai Seaweeds Industry Master Plan (SSIMP) under the leadership of the Philippine Development Assistance Program Inc.

PDAP is a Canadian International Development Agency-funded organization that focuses on rural industry development and market enhancement program.

PDAP executive director Jerry Pacturan said four nongovernment organizations and the Sitangkai local government initially committed to contribute a total of P1.1 million.

The master plan provides for three major programs: industry development, financing and enterprise development.

The plan is aimed at helping the farmers—by increasing their income, improving their standard of living and ensuring the delivery of basic social services—and developing the town into a first class local government unit that is totally independent from Internal Revenue Allotment (IRA).

It envisions a town that will generate its revenue from its own industry.

"We are offering this concept to all interested stakeholders since this plan intends to allow everyone to participate in the process and benefit from it equitably," said Pacturan.

Under the plan, about P825 million will be earmarked for the industry's development program. This will focus on the expansion of the industry, productivity management, seaweeds processing, industry clustering, installation of specialized infrastructure facilities and the development of the Sitangkai seaweeds brand.

A FARMER inspects the quality of his produce

The balance of the projected cost of the program will go to a lending facility for the farmers and an enterprise development program.

Karl Vincent Quiepo, one of PDAP's program officers, showed Sitangkai's resources to the INQUIRER during a recent visit.

"The whole stretch (of shore) is ideal for seaweeds, but not all the space will be used because farmers lack the means, particularly capital," Quiepo said.

The vast shallow reefs of Sitangkai, measuring approximately 60,000 hectares, are good for farming of different varieties of *Kappaphycus* (*'cottonii'*). Only about 10,000 hectares have been farmed so far.

"There is a lot of room for expansion, not only for seaweed farming but also for aquaculture," Quiepo said.

Seaweed farming in the Philippines, particularly in the Sulu archipelago, started in 1974.

Dr. Iain Charles Neish of SeaPlantnet, which is involved in agribusiness under the Program for Eastern Indonesia SME (Small Medium Enterprise) Assistance or Pensa, is saddened by the conditions of seaweed farmers here.

Neish, who started a seaweeds study in Sitangkai in the 1970s, said seaweeds flourished in the island but, despite their (farmers') contribution to the economy, the farmers' living condition remained poor.

Neish was referring to the absence of potable water, electricity, technology and telecommunications that the farmers needed.

"That's why we support the master plan by providing the farmers skills and the technology," Neish said.

The Canadian government is a major contributor to the development of the local industry.

Canadian Ambassador to the Philippines Peter Sutherland said his government had been contributing about P1 billion a year in development assistance to the country, and about 60 percent of that amount had been poured into Mindanao.

SEAWEED production is the main industry in Sitangkai, Tawi-Tawi

"Good local governance and small business development are inextricably joined. If these work together successfully, they (farmers) will no longer worry about the availability of schools, roads, health, peace and other needs of the community," Sutherland said.

Last month, Sutherland visited Sitangkai and saw for himself how the seaweed farmers lived.

"The government has to create the enabling environment to attract investments, to bring in businesses that will create jobs. The private sector has to create jobs for the young people and help the government generate revenues," Sutherland told Sitangkai residents and local government officials led by Gov. Sadikul Sahali.

Aside from the CIDA, International Finance Corp. based in Davao City, World Wildlife Foundation, Tawi-tawi provincial government and the local government support project of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao had pledged their commitment to the master plan.

If everything goes according to plan, Sitangkai will be on its way to economic development it has long been hoping for.

Changing of the guard at RP's biggest bank

From page B2-1

its coverage of corporate, middle market and consumer markets, and build on the strong reputation it has maintained throughout its 43-year history.

"Executing our strategy correctly will translate into gains for our shareholders, strengthen our balance sheet, earning potential and franchise, and secure our position as the industry leader for more years to come," Ty says.

With this transition, the bank has charted a series of changes, including beefing-up its senior management corps, reviewing its business processes, revitalizing sales capabilities, aligning business units and adopting new technology, all aimed at setting the groundwork required for the new strategy.

In the same vein, Metrobank has allowed the infusion of new talent and fresh ideas to complement its legacy of experience and expertise.

Providing good customer service, he says, is at the top of the bank's agenda.

"We are putting equal focus on strengthening existing customer relationships and attracting new clients ... We are pushing ourselves to be a more market driven institution," Ty says.

Better risk management is also a priority.

"From a business perspective, the penalties for weak risk management, and the benefits of stronger compliance, are simply too large to ignore," Ty says.

Ty takes over the presidency at a challenging time for the banking industry, which is facing more stringent accounting and capital adequacy requirements.

"We're the first big bank to comply with IAS (International Accounting Standards)," he notes.

Expansion

Ty says that it's reasonable to expect that over the long haul, Metrobank will move toward diversifying its ownership base.

During the last stockholders' meeting, the bank's charter was amended to scrap the preemptive rights of existing shareholders when new shares are issued, to increase the bank's public float and trading liquidity.

The Ty family currently controls 60-70 percent of Metrobank's outstanding shares.

But he notes that "any dilution must be worth it." The bank had made plans to issue new shares several times in the past, but as global market conditions turned bad shortly after—such as its most recent attempt—it had to abort plans yet again.

"We're in the position that we don't have to do it immediately. We're after a certain price," Ty says.

While not actively on the lookout, Metrobank is open to getting a foreign bank as a strategic minority partner, as long as the partner could contribute in terms of technical expertise and market reach.

"We won't be as interested if it's just financial contribution ... I think the most important thing is that the bank is also a leader in the market where it is operating and there's matching culture. You may have a strong bank (as partner) but if the culture doesn't match, there will be conflicts," he says.

Ty rules out going overseas, except for remittance operations catering to overseas Filipino workers.

"I believe if we're going regional, the home base must be strong, that's the Japanese model. The country has to be doing well first," Ty says.

Ty says the opportunities are mainly in remittances, at least for now.

Metrobank has full branches in Seoul, Tokyo, Taipei, Guam and New York as well as offshore presence in key markets like Italy, Hong Kong and the United Kingdom.

With fast-changing technology making physical branches not as important as before when it comes to customer reach, is Metrobank in any way threatened, especially with the aggressive stance of some foreign players?

"I don't think we're lagging. At worst, we're at par in general. At the end of the day, it's still about coverage. Look at any bank's ATM (automated teller machine), close to 100 percent of transactions are either withdrawals or inquiries. Deposits are very, very minimal," he says.

"A bank with a good technology with few branches is attractive, but a bank with good technology and many branches is even more attractive," Ty says.

MOVEMENTS

Tammy Lipana chairs PwC Philippines

TAMMY H. LIPANA HAS BEEN ELECTED CHAIRman and senior partner of Isla Lipana & Co./PricewaterhouseCoopers, also known as PwC.

A CPA topnotcher (18th place) and cum laude graduate of the University of the East, Lipana joined the firm in 1969 (then known as Joaquin Cunanan & Co.) as an auditor.

She also handled client accounting and tax services before being admitted as an audit partner in 1985. She later migrated to the tax practice in response to the growing demands for tax services.

Her career took a turn when she was designated tax managing partner in 1995.

She then rose from setting directions and strategies for profitable growth in the tax practice to holding a concurrently responsible position of vice chair in January 2006.

Lipana trained in legacy Price Waterhouse, New York under the firm's management international development program.

She also attended executive development programs at the Harvard Business School, Asian Institute of Management and University of Western Ontario in Canada.

She is currently chairperson of the taxation committee of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry and member of the Makati Business Club and the Management Association of the Philippines.

Her credentials as tax resource person include being president of the Tax Management Association of the Philippines and private sector head-BIR task force drafting EVAT regulations.

For many years, she also chaired the committee on taxation of the Philippine Institute of Certified Public accountants (Picpa), where she also served as director and treasurer. She has written numerous tax-related articles for both local and foreign publications.

In 2005, she was awarded a special recognition as an outstanding alumna by the University of the East Alumni Association.

P&A appoints new CEO

BENJAMIN Punongbayan, founder of Punongbayan & Araullo, announced that Greg Navarro will assume his new position of managing partner and chief executive officer effective July 1.

Punongbayan will retain the position of chairman of the firm. Prior to his appointment, Navarro was managing partner and chief operating officer.

A topnotcher in the October 1976 national CPA licensure examinations, Navarro has nearly 30 years of experience in the fields of management consulting and auditing covering both local and multinational companies in various industries.

He also worked for 10 years as a senior executive at one of the country's largest construction firms.

An outstanding alumnus awardee of the University of the East, Navarro is also a recipient of the Young Achiever Award from the Philippine Institute of CPAs.

He is the immediate past president of the Association of CPAs in Public Practice (ACPAPP) and is currently the chairman of the P&A Foundation, the Rotary Club of Makati Salcedo Foundation, and the ACPAPP Foundation.

He attended a management development program at the Kellogg School of Management of Northwestern University and the senior executive program of the Columbia Business School in the United States. Punongbayan & Araullo, one of the leading accounting firms in the country, is a member of Grant Thornton International.

Nestle has new manager

RIEPKO Krijthe, a Dutch national, is the new manager of the Nestle factory in Cabuyao, Laguna.

A graduate of Food technology, Krijthe joined Nestle Nederland in Rotterdam in 1982 as production section manager before becoming head of the milk powder production in 1984.

He was sent to Indonesia in 1988 as production manager at Kejayan factory and returned to Holland in 1990. A string of assignments followed—as factory manager at Choladi in India in 1994, Sipur in Bangladesh in 1997, and Kejayan in 1999.

Prior to his appointment as manager for the Nestle Cabuyao factory, Krijthe was operations development manager at the Nestle center in Vevey, Switzerland in 2003 , then as HPF manager and most recently as TS and NPI program manager. Krijthe is married with two children.

Carcar tourism on the rise

Reservoir to be developed as destination

By Irene R. Sino-Cruz
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—WHILE THE ECONOMY OF CARcar town is largely dependent on its footwear and hog industries, the completion of a reservoir irrigation project in the municipality is expected to help develop its tourism industry.

At the same time, the completion of the Can-asujan small reservoir irrigation project will boost agriculture production in the area, according to local officials.

Located about 40 km south of Cebu City, the municipality of Carcar has been a favorite site of tourists because of its old houses.

Carcar officials, however, hope to develop the Can-asujan small reservoir irrigation project into a tourist destination.

The P585-million project was funded by the Asian Development Bank with counterpart funds from the government.

It includes a 25-meter high dam, a 32-hectare reservoir area, a 39-square-kilometer catchment area and distribution lines to the farms.

Carcar Vice Mayor Rogelio Montesclaros said the municipal government was looking at the possibility. of promoting the 32-hectare submerged area as an ideal site for boating and fishing.

"This could be the future eco-tourism site with a component of sports facility," Montesclaros added.

Dado Rosales of the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) noted that the agency has already released 25,000 fingerlings of tilapia at the reservoir.

Fishing and boating activities at the reservoir will be possible starting August or September this year, Rosales said.

Aside from promoting eco-tourism activities such as fishing, camping and jogging, Carcar intends to host sports events such as mountain bike racing, Montesclaros said.

"The province is very aggressive on eco-tourism. Maybe five years from now, this will be a popular site," he said.

NIA has also been coordinating with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources for the planting of ylang-ylang trees at the reservoir's buffer zone as part of the watershed project, Rosales said.

Montesclaros cited the experience of Nueva Ecija, which considers the ylang-ylang tree plantations as a good source of livelihood.

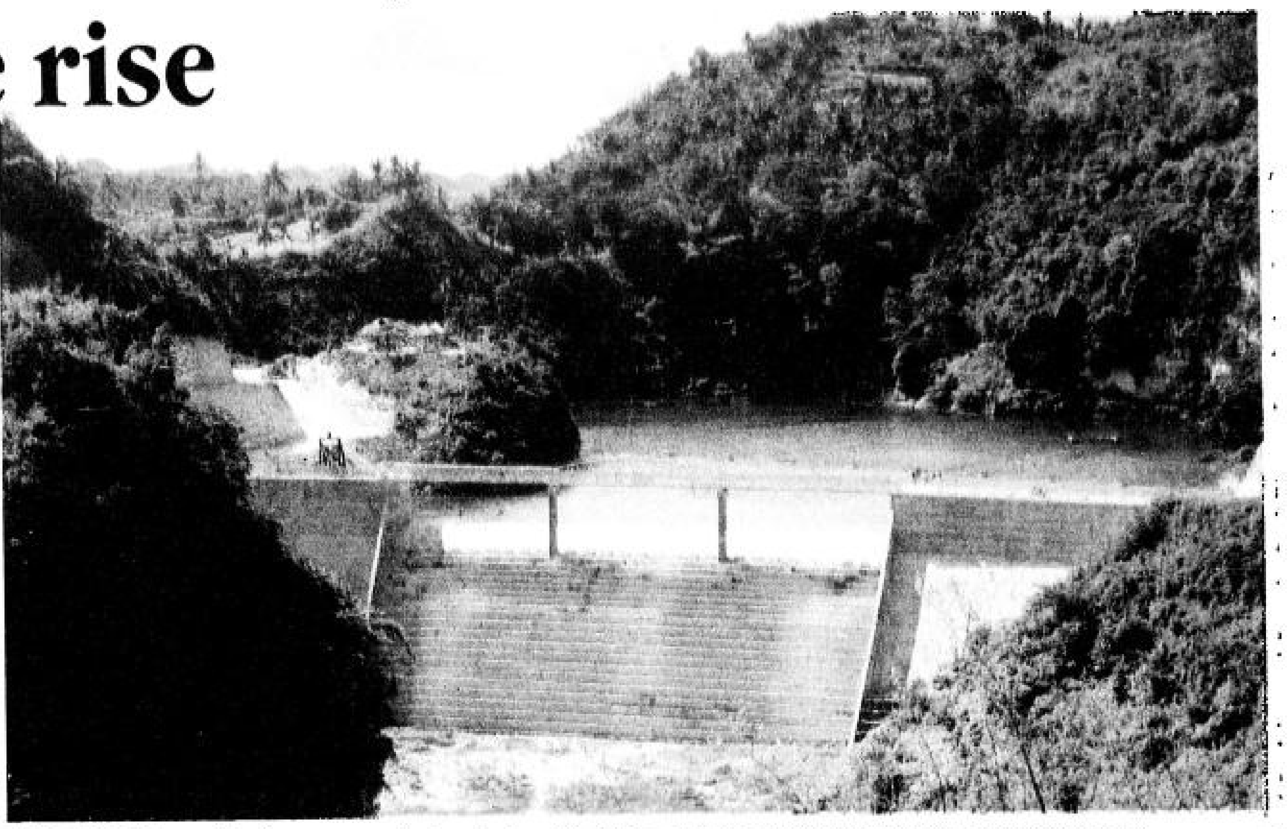
He said they sell the ylang-ylang flower extracts, an important component of signature perfumes, to an Italian buyer.

Carcar Mayor Mario Patricio Barcenas also projected that Carcar would be playing an important role in the province's food chain since the irrigation project will boost agricultural production.

In addition, the mayor said the local government was preparing an agro-industrial plan for farmers to add more value to their products.

"We could be the future food basket of Cebu because of this huge project. Our farmers and entrepreneurs can really engage in businesses related to agriculture," he said.

The dam construction started in August 2003 and was completed November 2005.



THE CARCAR municipal government plans to turn the 32-hectare reservoir into a boating and fishing area.

Firm praised for efforts to protect environment

By Vicente S. Labro
PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY—THE PHILIPPINE ASSOCIated Smelting and Refining Corp. does more than just refine copper and export it to the world market.

Based in Isabel town in Leyte, about 160 kilometers from here, Pasar maintains a fish sanctuary, recycles its effluents so that waste will not pollute the sea and spends money on reforestation. It also has an acid plant facility that allows it to collect sulfuric acid produced by its plant, instead of releasing it into the air.

For its efforts, Pasar has been recognized by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources as one of its environmental partners in the region.

Mirardo C. Malazarte Jr., Pasar senior vice president for operations and production, said he was happy that Pasar's effort to protect the environment was recognized. He stressed, however, that Pasar does not invest in environmental protection measures just to win an award.

"It is important for us because we stay here," he said.

Pasar, the country's lone copper smelting and refining firm, spends millions of dollars on making its plants more environment friendly, while striving to increase production.

Malazarte said Pasar would spend about $8 million for a new Dore plant to replace its existing 22-year-old facility.

He said the new Dore plant, which would be completed by December this year, "has higher recoveries and uses very clean technology."

Pasar wants to raise production to take advantage of the good market price for its products.

Pasar produces high quality electrolytic copper cathodes, the raw materials for the manufacture of various kinds of electric cables, telecommunication wires, copper shapes and copper-alloy products.

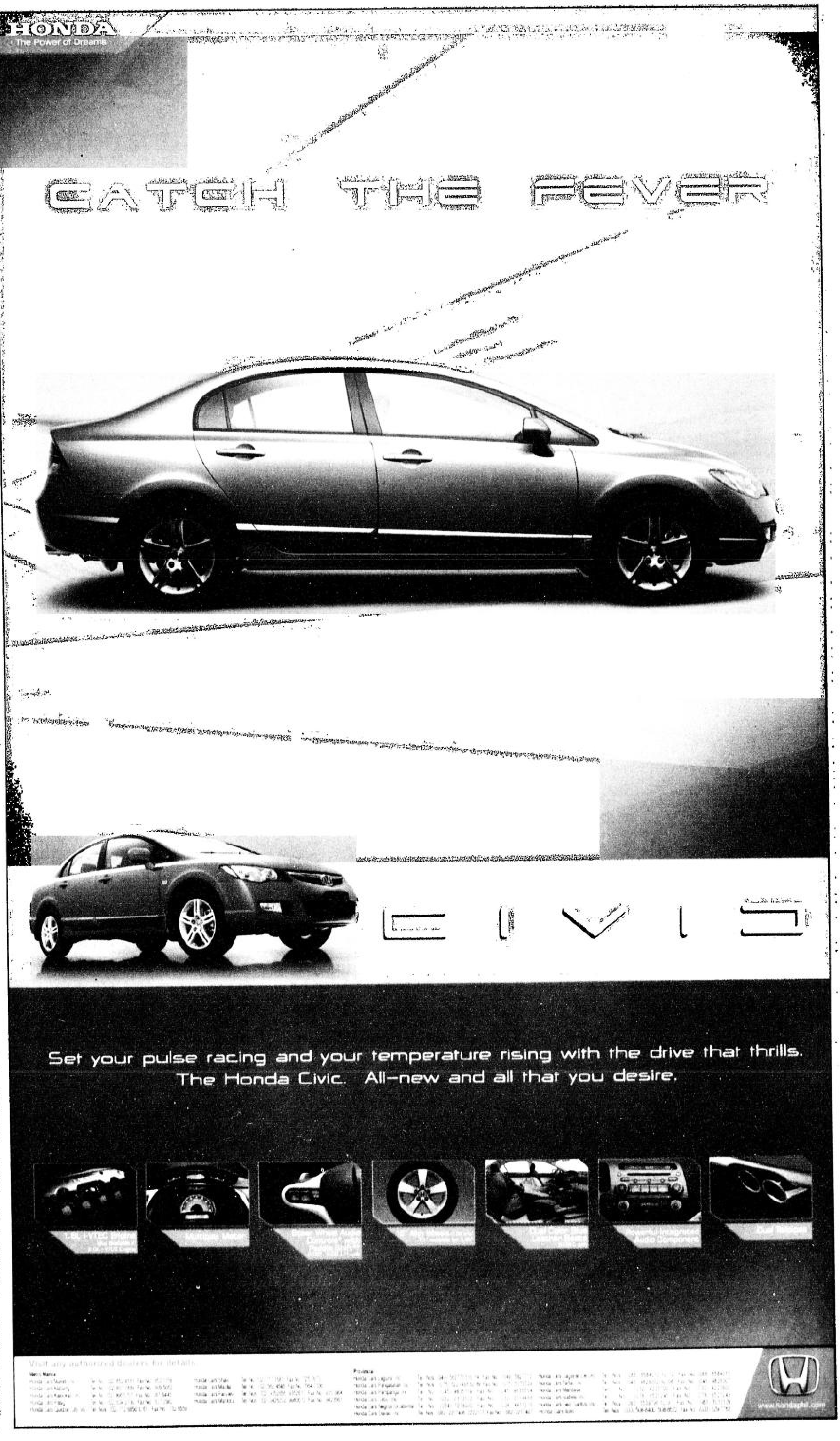
It also produces refined copper anode as well as by-products such as dore, sulfuric acid, selenium, slag, iron concentrates and gypsum, and copper residues.

Main buyers of Pasar products, according to Malazarte, are China, Taiwan, Korea, Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand.

Malazarte said that Pasar has completed the expansion of the smelter that increased production by 20 percent, or an output capacity of about 720,000 tons of copper concentrates a year.

He added that they are in the process of upgrading their refinery at a cost of about $27 million, and once completed in June next year it would give the company a cathode output capacity of about 215,000 tons a year.

The Pasar port, which is presently undergoing expansion at a cost of about $7 million, could already handle 50,000 tons of vessels when completed in November 2006, he said.



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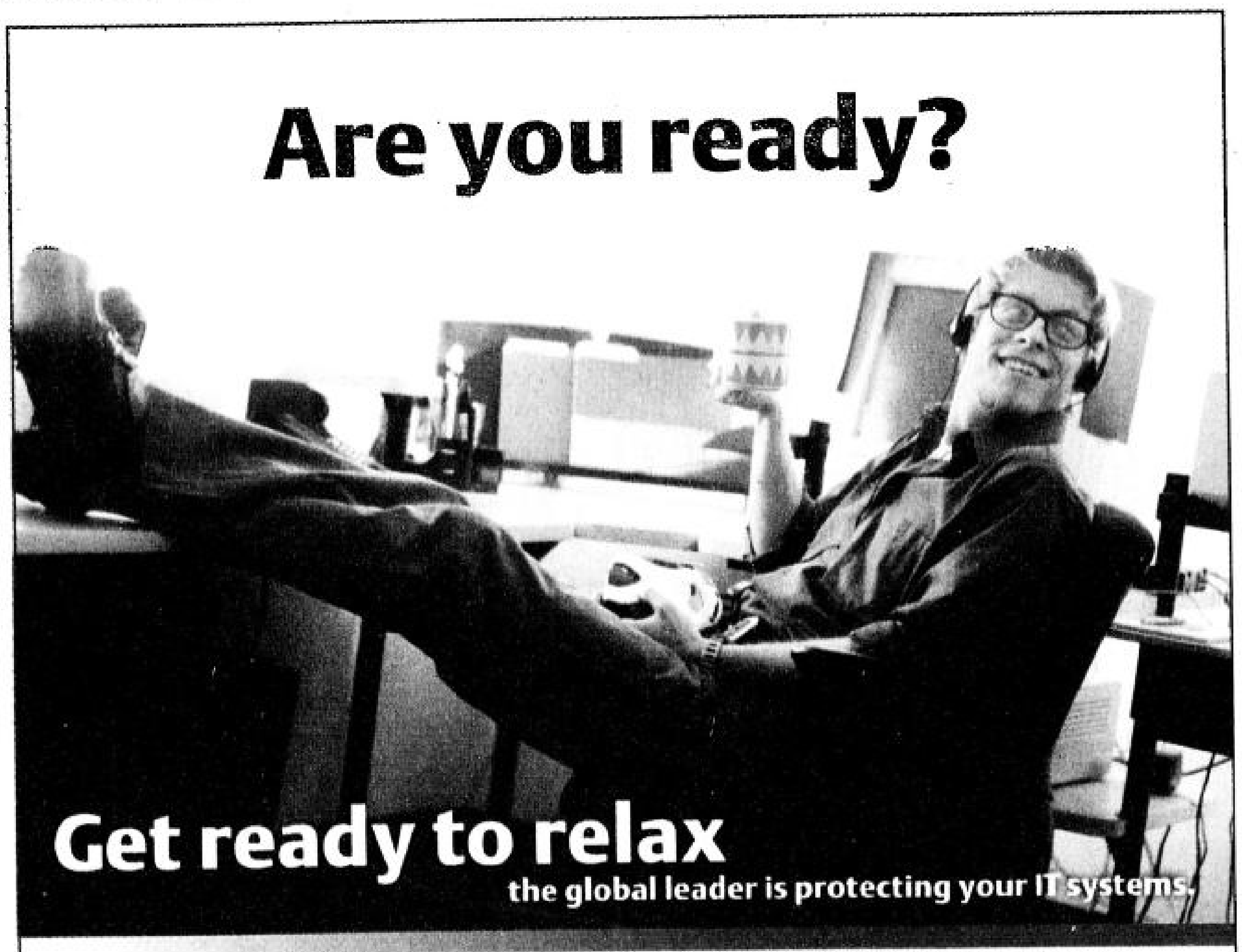
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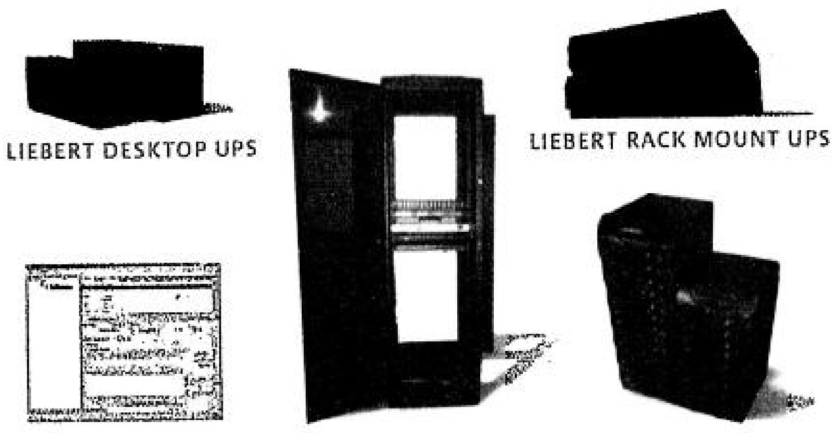

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Halting the unhappiness trend

A LEADER'S WAY

John C. Maxwell

THIS WEEK, WE HAVE JOHN MAXWELL'S "Maximum Impact" partner and author of "High Trust Selling," Todd Duncan, writing for us. Duncan writes about what every leader in the workplace has to deal with: the unhappiness at work trend.

Happy workers make happy people. Unfortunately, half of America's workforce is unhappy on the job.

Last year, The Conference Board reported the results of a study on job satisfaction. Their study found that in comparison to the year before, overall job satisfaction has declined from 61 percent to 49 percent among workers aged 35-44 and from 57 percent to 48 percent among workers aged 45-54.

Corporate efforts to buck this trend have fallen short. The study revealed that only 30 percent of workers claimed to be satisfied with their company's training or educational programs, 40 percent feel disconnected from their employers, and two out of every three workers do not identify with or feel motivated to drive their employer's goals and objectives.

This leads primarily to one conclusion. Showing up for work is no more than an obligation to collect a paycheck, something 25 percent of the workers surveyed admitted to.

With all the unhappiness on the job, it's likely many are affected off the job as well. To determine how affected, it may behoove us to ask a medical professional. Studies over the last several years show that depression remains the costliest of all medical ailments in the United States, and stress remains the most prevalent cause of medical and psychological problems.

While corporate efforts to reverse these depressing trends have failed, your efforts can succeed if you understand what to do.

According to a recent Time magazine article titled, The New Science of Happiness, you can raise your level of happiness on and off the job by working on the "three components of happiness:

1. Getting more pleasure out of life in general.

2. Becoming more engaged in what you do with your time.

3. Finding ways of making your life feel more meaningful.

Leading psychologists cite three continual acts that help you accomplish these three components.

1. Keeping a gratitude journal. "At the University of California at Riverside, psychologist Sonja Lyubomirsky ... has found that taking the time to conscientiously count their blessings once a week significantly increased subjects' overall satisfaction with life over a period of six weeks, whereas a control group that did not keep journals had no such gain."

University of California Davis psychologist Robert Emmons found that "the ones who benefited most tended to elaborate more and have a wider span of things they are grateful for."

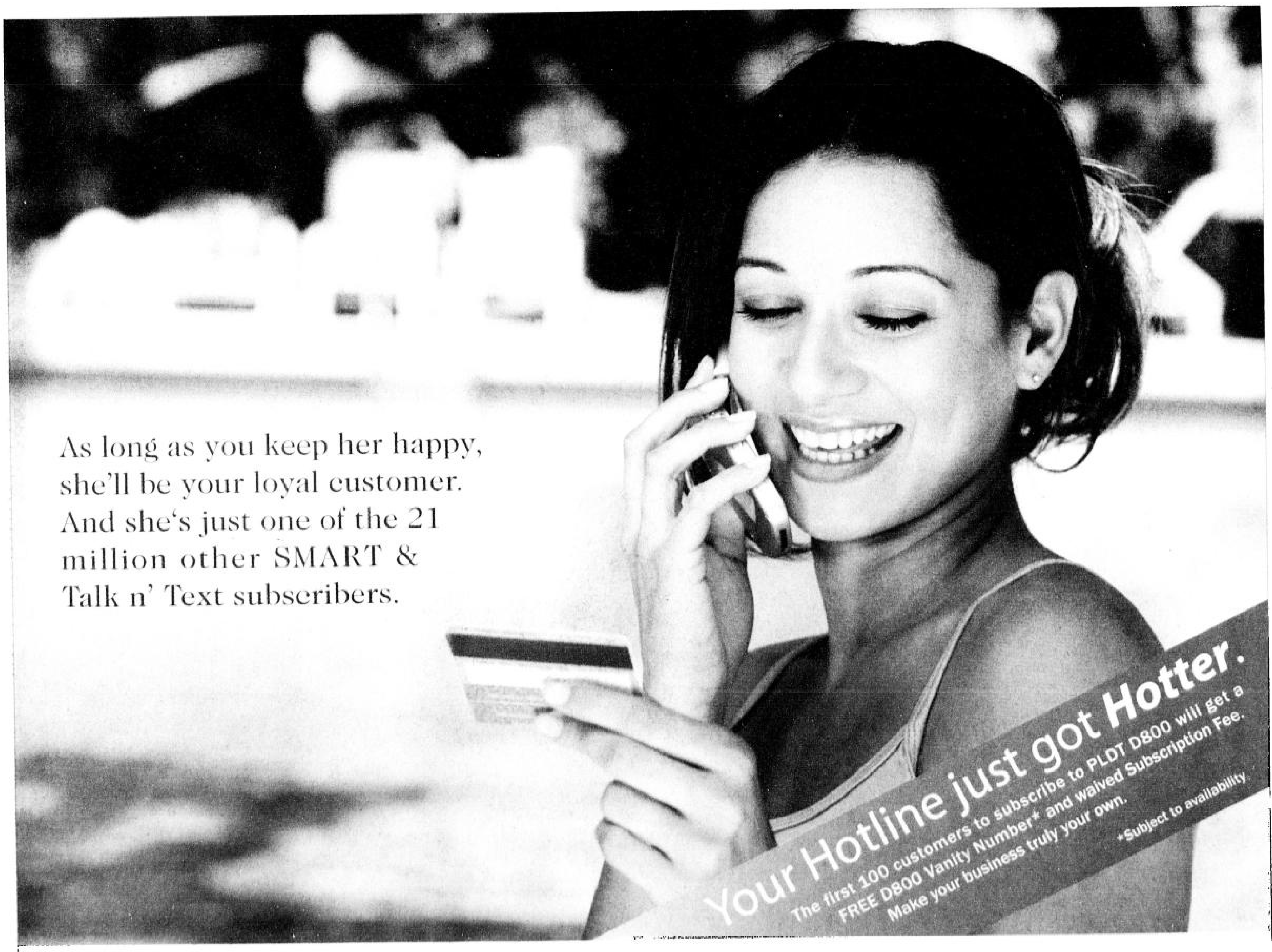
2. Performing acts of altruism or kindness. The Time article notes, "Doing five kind acts a week, especially all in a single day, gave a measurable boost to Dr. Lyubomirsky's subjects." According to bestselling author and psychologist Martin Seligman, "The single most effective way to turbo-charge your joy is to make a 'gratitude visit.' That means writing a testimonial thanking a teacher, pastor or grandparent—anyone to whom you owe a debt of gratitude—and then visiting that person to read him or her the letter of appreciation."

3. Figuring out your strengths and finding new ways to deploy them. According to Dr. Seligman, "Cerebral virtues—curiosity, love of learning—are less strongly tied to happiness than interpersonal virtues like kindness, gratitude, and capacity for love."

According to every psychologist interviewed by Time, all studies indicate that happiness seems to be most tied to feeling more connected to others.

"Almost every person," said Dr. Csikszentmihalyi, "feels happier when they're with other people. It's paradoxical because many of us think we can hardly wait to get home and be alone with nothing to do, but that's a worst-case scenario. If you're alone with nothing to do, the quality of your experience really plummets." Ironically, all three continual acts involve interaction with other people and that might possibly the key to remaining happy—on or off the job.

(For information on John Maxwell's in-house or public leadership or teamwork workshops, please e-mail us at maxwell@inspire.ph or call 813-2732/03 and ask for Jesi or Bing. Text MAXWELL ON to 4632 (Smart) to get daily SMS leadership insights from John Maxwell. God bless!)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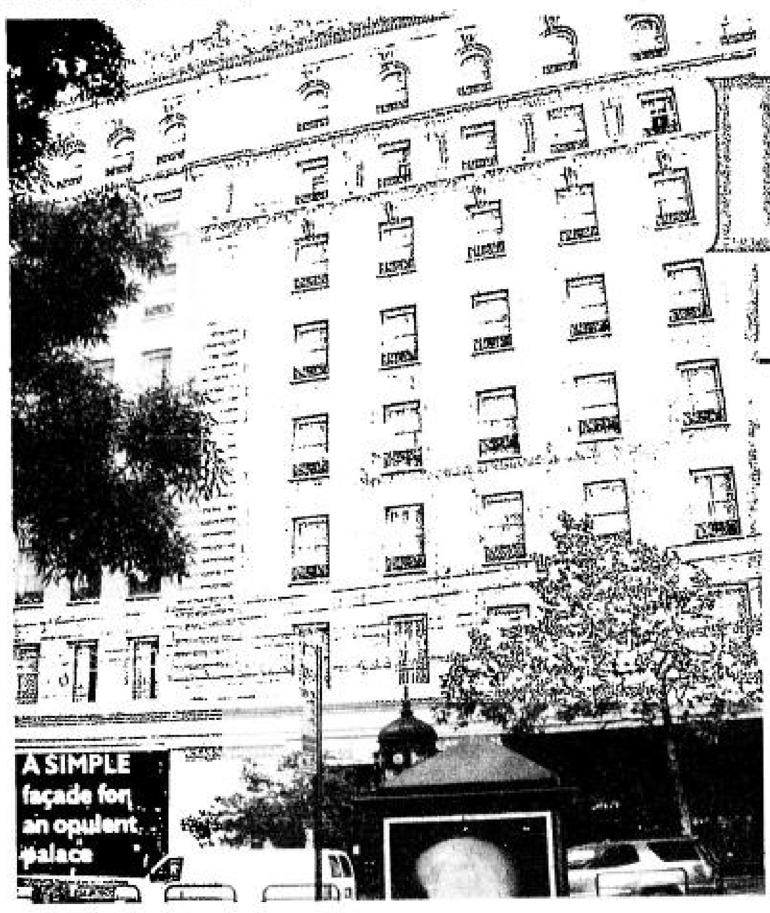

A SIMPLE façade for an opulent palace

LIFESTYLE

Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso** Subsection Editor **Lito B. Zulueta**

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NEW DUNKIN' DONUTS ICED COFFEE P28

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A hero is remembered by San Francisco's grande dame

Rizal may not have left his heart in the City by the Bay but his brief visit is immortalized in a marker at the hotel where he stayed

STORY ON PAGE C3

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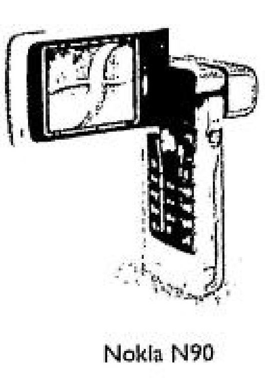
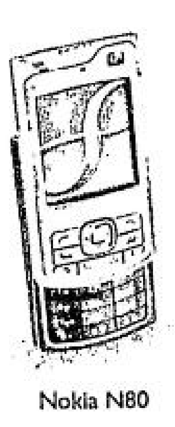


Nokia N90



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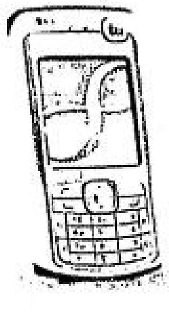
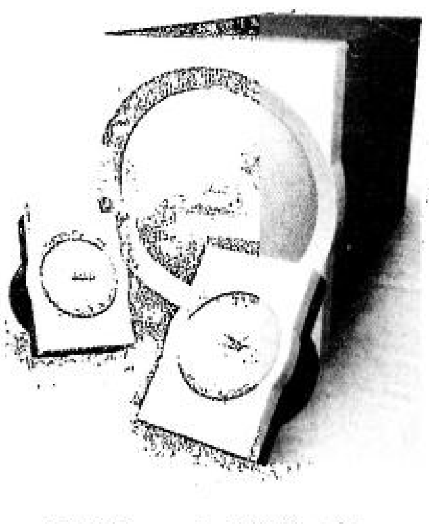


Nokia N70

Nokia N91



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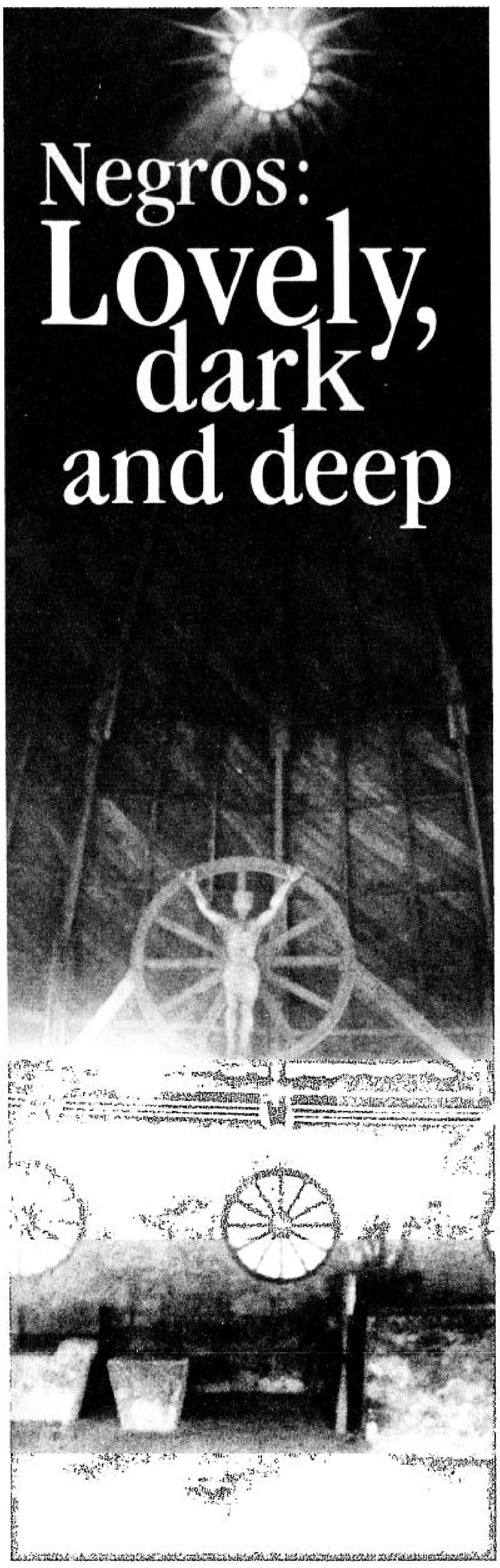


Negros: Lovely, dark and deep

A PANORAMIC shot of the chapel of cartwheels in Manapla town

KAHAYAG Dance Troupe of Silliman University

Text by Dexter R. Matilla
Contributor
Photos by Brix Gil Bayuga

NEGROS OCCIDENTAL IS A province teeming with national treasures and cultural heritage sites. And it is for these reasons, among other things, that the region was chosen as special focus for this year's National Heritage Month (NHM) Festival.

Journalists and National Commission for the Culture and Arts (NCCA) delegates from Manila were flown into the renowned City of Smiles via Air Philippines and billeted at the L'Fisher Hotel in Bacolod for the entire event.

Kicking off the festivities was the opening of the photo exhibit at the Robinsons Place Bacolod, which showcased vintage pictures of the entire province from the collection of longtime resident Joe Lopez.

In the afternoon, the "Aton Panublion (Our Heritage) Cultural Exhibit: Inside Ancestral Homes of Negros" was formally opened at the Sea Breeze Hotel.

On hand during the ribbon-cutting ceremony were NCCA chair Ambeth Ocampo, Tourism Undersecretary Edu Jarque, Negros Occidental Gov. Joseph Marañon and Bacolod Mayor Evelio Leonardia.

Distinguished personalities present include Spanish Ambassador Ignacio Sagaz, Belgian Ambassador Gregoire Vardakis, French Ambassador Gerard Chesnel, Gloria Angara, Tony and Armita Rufino, Melanie Villar, Carrisa Lebron, and C.J. Moreno and Josefa "Paching" Puentevella, wife of Rep. Monico Puentevella. Msgr. Guillermo Gaston led the invocation rites. It should be noted that it was the first time that three different ambassadors were at an NHM event.

Showcased were items from the yesteryears including furniture, framed pictures and traditional clothes. Also on display were photos of ancestral homes that belonged to Bacolod's Don Mariano Ramos and Dr. Mariano Yulo, the Montillas of Pulupandan Town, and those of Doña Enrica Alunan Lizares, Don Simplicio Lizares, and Gen. Aniceto Lacson, whose manor was once considered the Malacañang of the South.

Heritage tour

The following morning, guide Ramon "Mon" Hofileña, himself a proprietor of a heritage house, treated the visitors to a heritage tour starting with the Bernardino-Jalandoni Museum in Silay City, which is also considered as the Paris of Negros Occidental.

The museum gives guests an idea of how the rich and elite lived during the earlier times and how the "Negros, Sugar Bowl of the Philippines" title came to be.

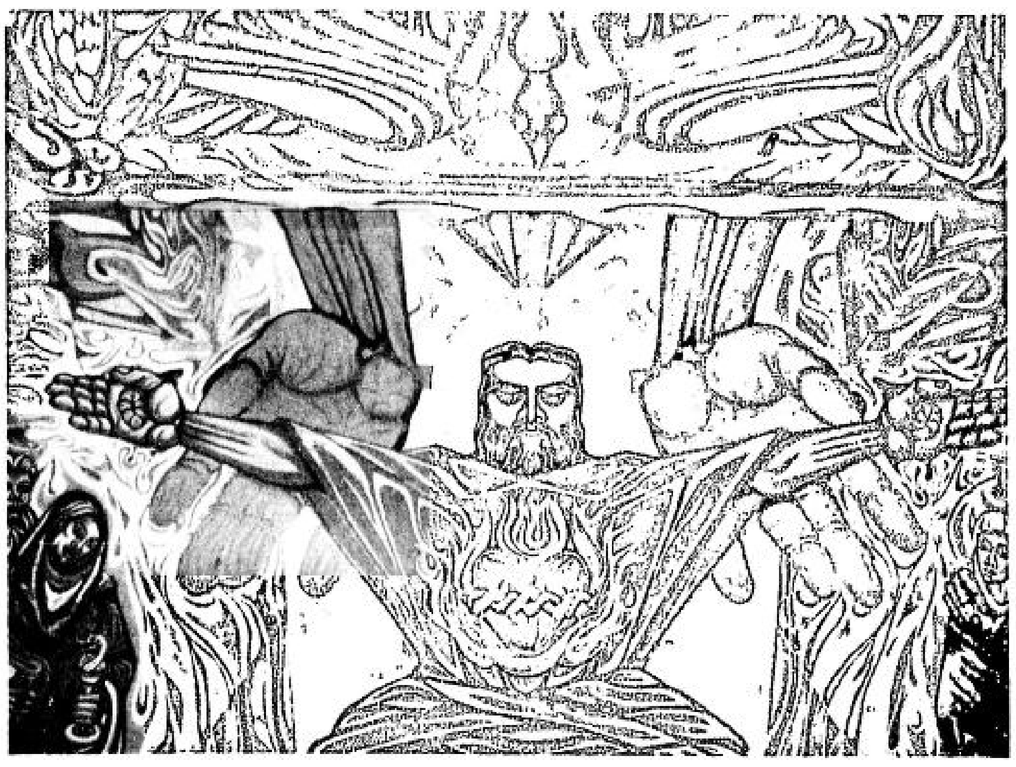
Next stop was the Church of Saint Joseph the Worker at Victorias City, home of the Victorias Milling Co. Inc. Built in the late 1940s through the efforts of the Ossorio clan, the church has features that represent true Filipino talent and are true cultural treasures.

According to Hofileña, broken glasses gathered by residents of the mill were used in designing the mosaics that decorate the exterior of the church.

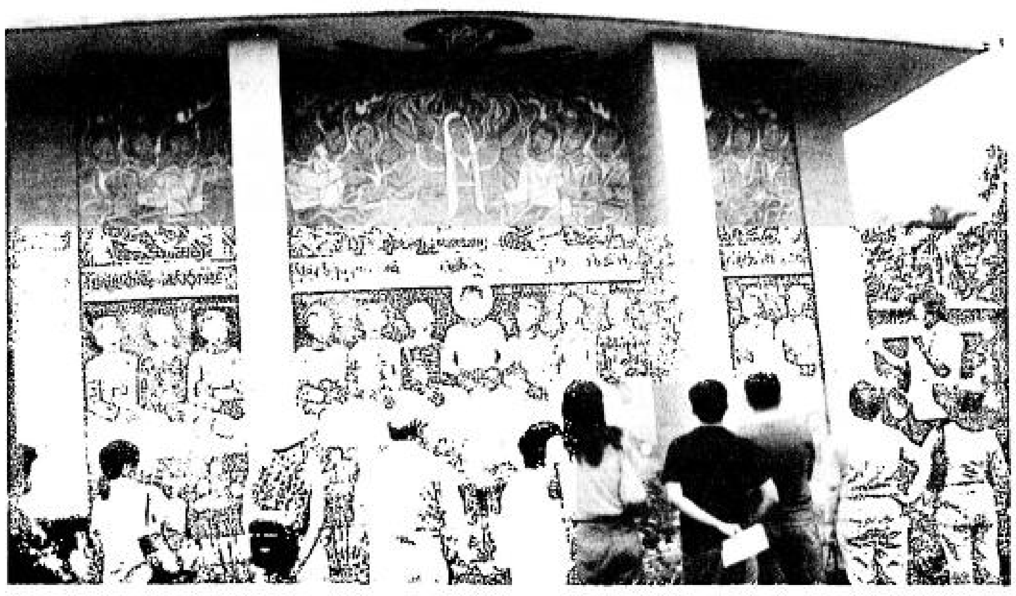
The heritage spotlight is trained on Negros Occidental

Inside, sculptures by Benjamin Valenciano were also something that raised a few eyebrows, especially from religious groups, during the time. Saints were, for the first time, depicted as having Filipino features.

But what could probably be considered as the church's biggest attraction is the "Angry Christ" mural of Alfonso Ossorio (1916-1990). The colorful artwork—with the majority of the figures in shades of red and yellow—shows Jesus Christ in the middle, with His heart in the middle ablaze and surrounded by thorns, and the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove descending upon Him. It the only one of its kind in the country; it was featured in Life Magazine.



ALFONSO Ossorio mural, "Angry Christ"



CHURCH of St. Joseph the Worker

In the afternoon, a short visit at Victorias Milling, which included a free taste of freshly milled sugar, preceded our visit to the Chapel of the Cartwheels in the town of Manapla. Just as the name implies, the chapel is composed mainly of cartwheels, including the cross where a Filipino-looking Jesus Christ is nailed with his hands slightly higher than usual.

It was then on to the Hofileña heritage house where Mon Hofileña's collection of paintings by National Artists and one sketch of musical instruments—probably a school project by the looks of it—by Jose Rizal left us all in wonderment.

SPAIN'S Ambassador to the Philippines, Ignacio Sagaz, having a hearty laugh with Bacolod Mayor Evelio Leonardia

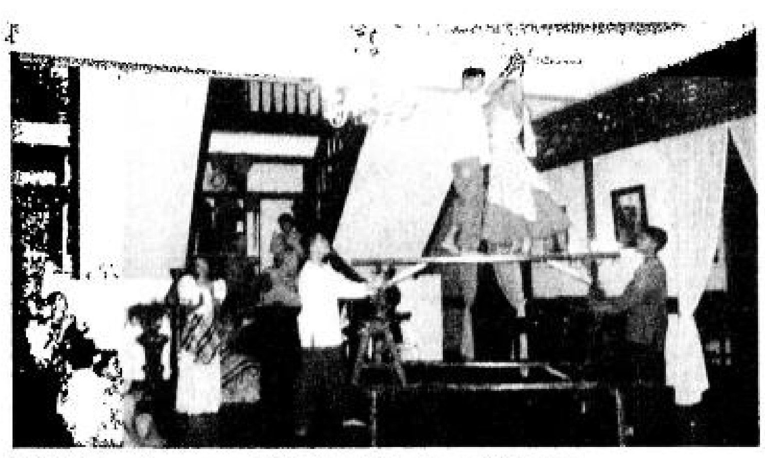
Following a quick printmaking workshop by Hofileña, the group moved on to the Balay Negrense Museum or the Don Victor F. Gastono Ancestral House.

Museum

Found in the heart of the small colonial city of Silay, the museum, entirely made of wood and stone, was constructed at the turn of the 20th century. A vast hall occupies the first floor and is connected with another large corridor in the second floor via a majestic stairway. Twelve bedrooms circle the space surrounded by shutters, hemmed in by carved transoms and permanently aired by trade winds.

In the dining room, the table of red narra is set with fine porcelain, French silver and orchids from the nearby garden. An epitome of the colonial lifestyle, it multiplies the effects with vegetable ornaments, leaf motifs and floral designs in sculpted wood against pale blue paneling.

After a hearty dinner at the museum compliments of Silay Mayor Carlo Gamban, a cultural presentation presented by very talented young performers ensued.

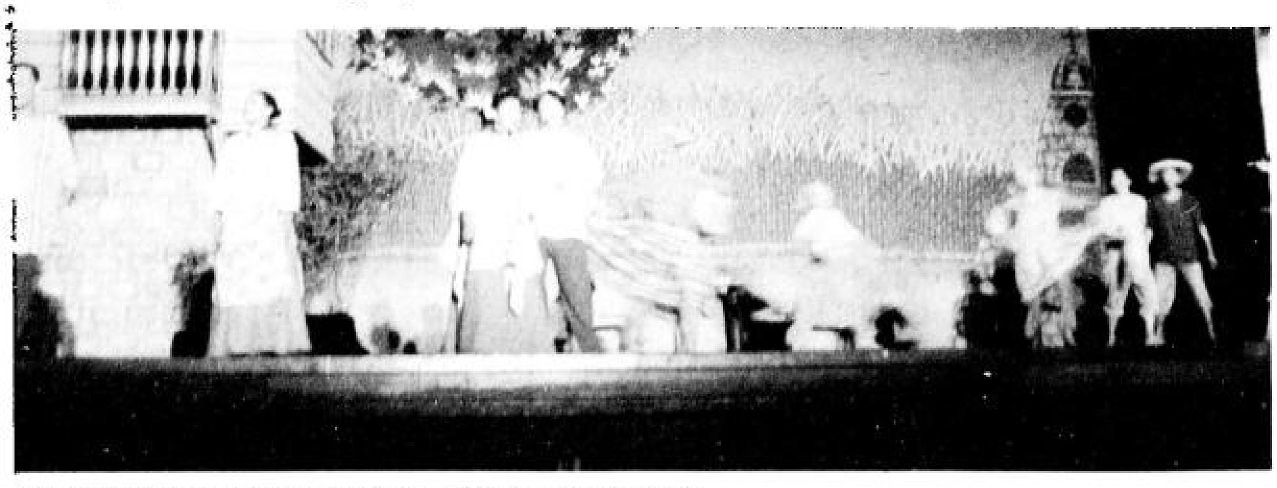


YOUNG performers at the Balay Negrense Museum

On the final day of the tour, the equally enchanting Silliman University Kahayag Dance Troupe treated the group to another cultural dance number at the Sylvia Manor where Mayor Leonardia hosted lunch afterwards.

As the sun began to set, the Tourism and Performing Arts Society (Tapas) Inc. staged the Ilonggo zarzuela "Dandansoy-Ang Gugma ni Dansoy kag Rosing" or Dansoy's Love for Rosing. It is based on a true story that happened in the early 1900s when sugar was the prime economy of the island of Negros. Dansoy, a farm worker, meets Rosing, the daughter of an "encargado" (plantation manager) who fell in love despite their social status differences.

"The *zarzuela* is a wonderful thing," said Bambi Harper. "Let us hope and pray that this tradition will continue to prosper."



ORIGINAL Hiligaynon *zarzuela* "Gugma ni Dansoy Kag Rosing"

Capping the night off was the Governor's Dinner at the Social Hall of the Provincial Capitol.

Although the activities-filled stay was short, the entire event allowed me to have a greater appreciation how wonderful Negros Occidental is. Because more than just a city of smiles, more than a city of cultural heritage, and more than just being a sugar bowl of the Philippines, Negros Occidental is a place that anyone anywhere could consider their home away from home.

E-mail the author at dxmatilla@yahoo.com

Paper art and fashion at Pinto

FOR THE 2006 ANTIPOLO ARTS FESTIVAL, the Pinto Gallery featured Twinkle Ferraren's "Paper Art-to-Wear" fashion exhibition recently.

Pinto's gently sloping yard served as runway, lending a summery air to the parade of casually clad character models. Their outfits were made of paper, with lines of poetry painted on skirts and hats.

Otto Retardo, Ferraren's brother, put an interactive dimension to the exhibit by using stencils to spray-paint Ferraren's face and other doodles.

"All these doodles, sketches or scribbles start on paper, so it's cool to see them on paper [and at the same time] on people. It super-matches my mission of making art more every day," said Ferraren.

Nyko Maca's Madz Abubakar played music and Chanelle Kim and Happy Ferraren read poetry.

The unconventional paper material is water-resistant and durable enough to wear on dance floors.

"It's perfect to just wear the pant-skirts over your swimsuit at a beach lounge party, or the jackets and hats to stand out during special events," Ferraren said.

The textile is a paper application by Japanese designer Wataru Sakuma, who has been developing paper technologies for various uses in architecture, interior design, and textile design with Masa Ecological Development Inc.

Ferraren and Sakuma met at the Manila FAME Expo at the World Trade Center last year, where Sakuma's team won the best product award.

Ferraren's work with the paper textile began with an exhibition at last year's Design Fest at Tokyo Big Sight in Japan.

Gift Gate signed her up to create Hello Kitty-themed hats, bags and apron-skirts, which are now available locally.

Ferraren's pieces are on exhibit at Pinto Gallery in Grand Heights, Antipolo City, until June 23. Call 7256982.

PAPER textile was developed by Japanese designer Wataru Sakuma.

A hero is remembered by San Francisco's grande dame

Text and photos by Linda B. Bolido

GRACEFUL arches and glass doors with ornate gilded frames represent 19th-century elegance.

SHOP doors carry the distinctive pattern of Palace entrances.

A CORNER OF SAN FRANCISCO seems destined to be forever Philippines. No. 2 New Montgomery, at the corner of Market Street, San Francisco's commercial hub, is the centuries-old Palace Hotel.

Opened on Oct. 2, 1875, its grace undiminished by age, the Palace symbolizes the elegance, the gentility associated with the City by the Bay. But for Filipinos, it is more than just a graceful and luxurious landmark of a beautiful city.

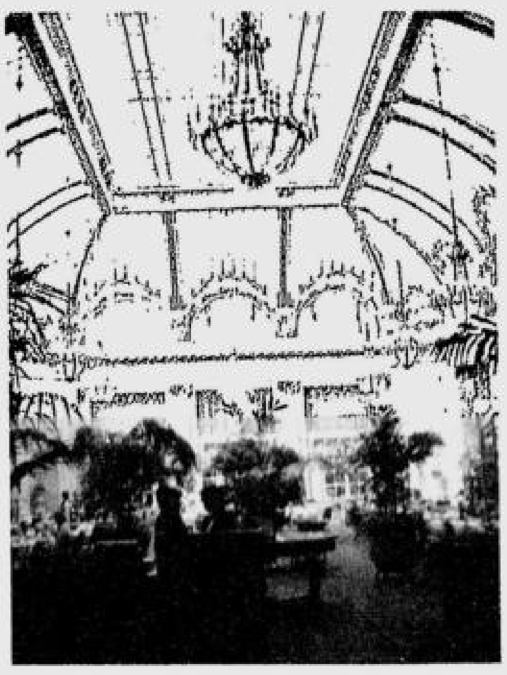
The seven-story edifice (short by today's standards) once sheltered an illustrious Filipino, Dr. Jose Protacio Rizal, a historical fact that the stately hotel proudly proclaims. A brass marker was placed to the left of the main entrance on Dec. 30, 1996, the centennial of the national hero's martyrdom, to commemorate his two-day visit in May, 1888, his only trip to the United States.

The marker says, in part, "Imbued with a superior intellect and an intense love for his country, Dr. Rizal sought to gain freedom for the Filipino people from centuries of Spanish domination through peaceful means. His writings, foremost of which were the novels 'Noli Me Tangere' and 'El Filibusterismo,' dared to expose the cancer of colonial rule and agitated for reforms."

A landmark restoration had restored and conserved the beauty, style and elegance of the Palace, a Starwood property. Much of the renovated hotel hark back to a glorious past of affluence and luxury—the entrance with gilded curlicues, high-backed chairs with brocade upholstery in a corridor that connects two side entrances, and the coffee shop with its vaulted ceilings and Austrian leaded crystal chandeliers. In fact, the coffee shop, the Garden Court, is a landmark all by itself with its graceful columns soaring from marble floors toward the luminous stained-glass ceiling. The San Francisco Historic Society has declared it the city's Landmark No. 18.

Living up to its name, the 552-room Palace has hosted presidents, royalty, giants of industry, pillars of society and, of course, the Philippines' national hero.

DR. JOSE P. RIZAL
THE MARKER commemorating Jose Rizal's stay at the hotel was put up in 1996, the centennial of his martyrdom.


THE OPULENT Garden Court has been declared San Francisco Landmark No. 18.

THE PALACE has lived up to its name by hosting presidents, royalty, captains of industry, pillars of society and a national hero.

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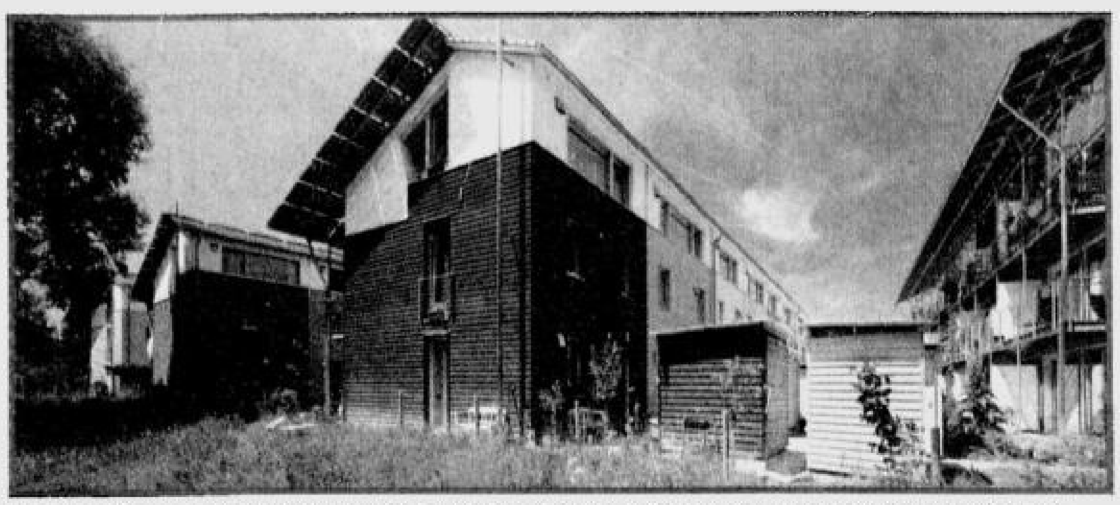
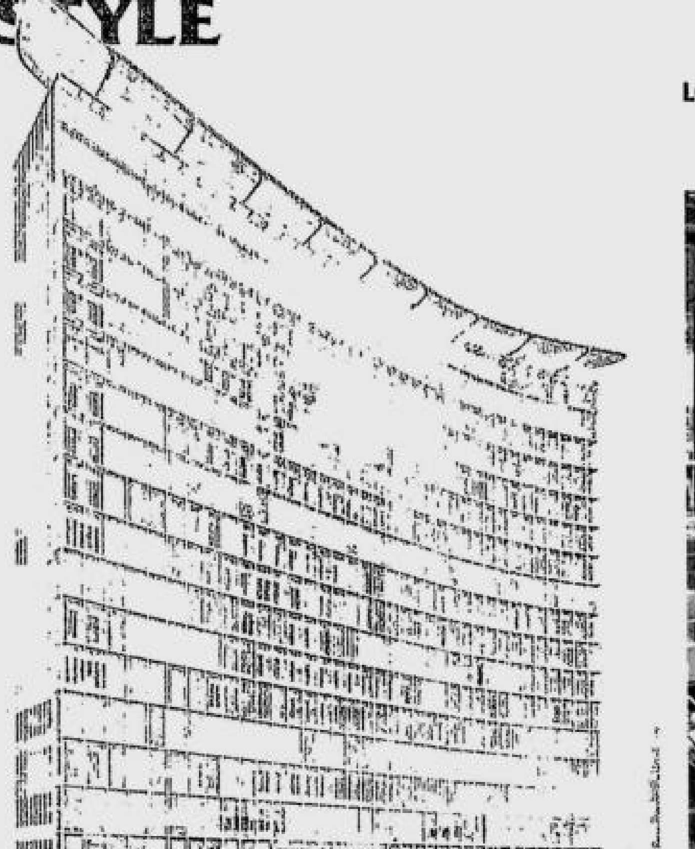
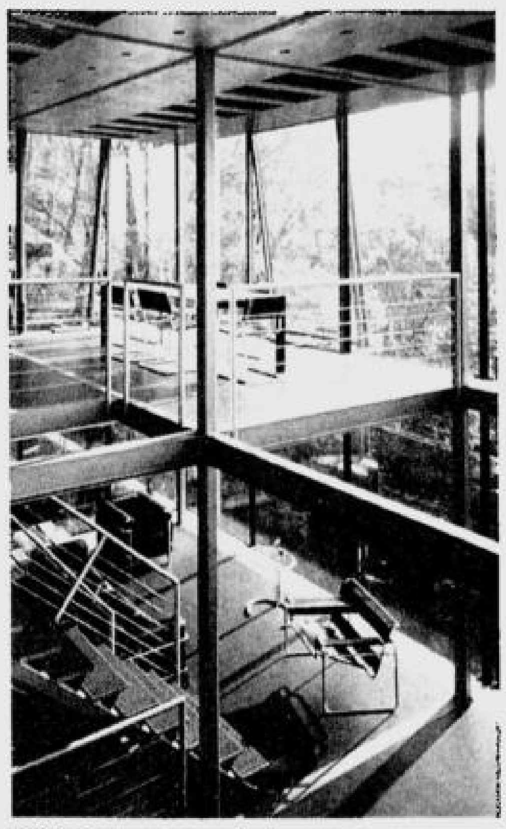


SOLAR settlement in Freiburg, Breisgau. Each apartment in the row houses is furnished with a low shed, or "cellar substitute."



LOW-ENERGY high-rise in Berlin (right)



ENERGY apartment in Stuttgarty

Ecology-based German architecture

An exhibit at Goethe-Manila shows the diversity and styles of more recent German architecture

THE GOETHE-INSTITUT MANILA, IN cooperation with the United Architects of the Philippines (UAP), will exhibit "Made in Germany: Architecture + Ecology." The show is in connection with the Goethe-Institut's "Made in Germany" series, which brings German architecture in dialogue with various cultural and sociopolitical conceptions, providing a context in which to present a selection of contemporary architectural projects.

German architecture is often associated with the past figures of the Bauhaus. But since the final third of the 20th century, German architecture has seen an overlapping succession of movements and styles.

Today, it is characterized by high technological standards and innovation. Very much in line with this is the aspiration to develop sustainable architecture and the idea that architecture should go beyond mere aesthetics by taking into consideration the impact of architectural projects on the environment.

In Germany, ecological building enjoys considerable prestige and boasts a long tradition. It was amidst the economic and energy crises of the mid-1970s that environmentally sound urban planning gained popularity in the country.

The incorporation of the environment as a key factor in architecture was first applied in the design of residential buildings in the sunny South.

Since then, the movement for ecological building has gained wide acceptance. Today, we find many outstanding examples of ecological building in the areas of administrative and industrial architecture, education and even in the transport sector.

The nine examples in the exhibition—ranging from daycare center to zero-emissions factory to train station—display the multitude of architectural and technical developments taking place in ecological building virtually everywhere in Germany.

This diversity of resource and energy-conserving building—along with continuing research into renewable raw materials, household energy use and heat recovery—is perpetually producing new insights, technical standards and norms.

Such developments have long since transformed ecological building into a significant economic factor—and into the architecture of the future.

"Made in Germany: Architecture + Ecology" runs June 22-July 19 at the Goethe-Institut Manila, 5/F Adamson Centre, 121 L.P. Leviste St. Salcedo Village, Makati City.

Admission is free. Call 8170978 or visit www.goethe.de/manila.

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Exhibit melds music and arts

GALERIE JOAQUIN moves its highly successful "La Musique IV" exhibition to the Galerie Joaquin Podium and the Galerie Francesca in Festival Mall Alabang. The show is the fourth in a series of annual group exhibitions paying tribute to music.

The show features over 50 works from National Artist Arturo Luz, Presidential Medal of Merit recipient Juvenal Sanso, and Sotheby's regulars Mario Parial and Lydia Velasco. Leading contemporary artists such as Manny Garibay, Jun Alfon, Eileen Escueta, Bernard Vista, Jerry Morada, Bayani Ray Acala, Vincent de Pio and members of the Guevarra Group of Artists are also featured.

"La Musique IV" was part of the National Heritage Month celebrations last month.

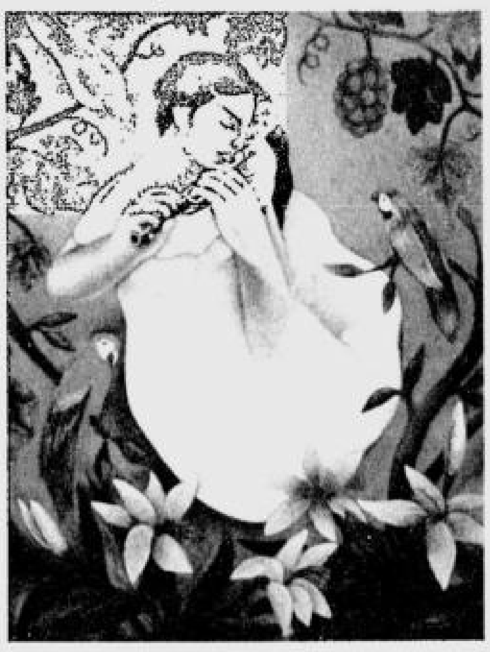
Notable works in the exhibit are Parial's 36" x 48" "Festivale (Three Musicians)" and Acala's 40" x 30" "Cademia (Recital)," which celebrate womanhood.

Morada's works depicting women in Filipiniana include 48" x 36" "Kaputol na Himig" I and 48" x 30" "Kaputol na Himig" II.

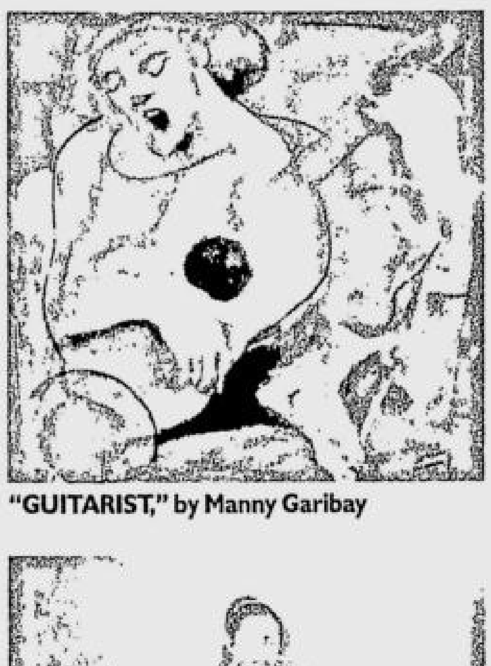
Also on display are Escueta's 24" x 36" "Perchance to Dream," in acrylic on canvas, and Aileen Lanuza's 24" x 36" "The Golden Cellist" and 36" x 24" "Cello," showing women cello players.

Galerie Joaquin Podium is located at Unit B12-B13, LG/L, The Podium, ADB Ave., Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City. Call 6347954.

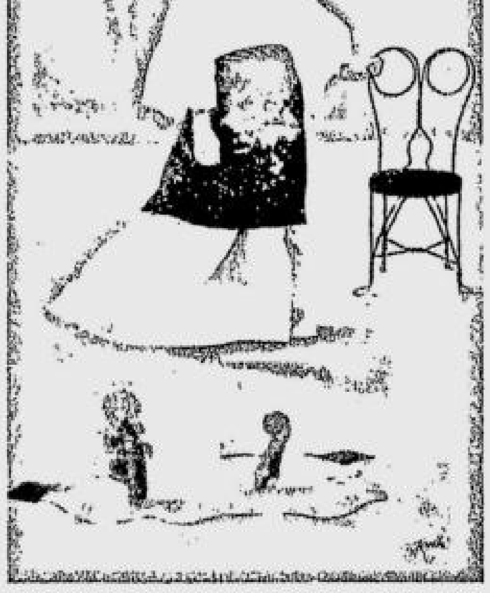
Galerie Francesca is located at Unit 2B, Treasure Trove, 3/L, Festival Supermall, Alabang, Muntilupa City. Call 8098495 or log on to www.galeriejoaquin.com



"CADEMIA (Recital)," by Bayani Ray Alcala



"GUITARIST," by Manny Garibay



"KAPUTOL Na Himig" II, by Jerry Morada

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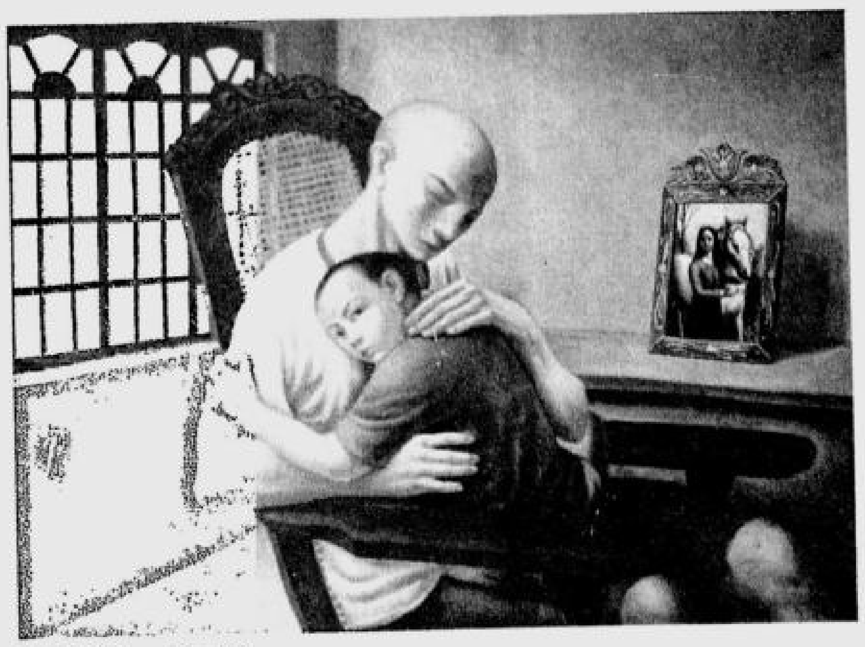
LIFESTYLE

Elmer Borlongan's art of the human interest

This is his first interpretation of a tale for kids and his first use of linen as medium



"FATHER and Son" I

By Jessica Jalandoni-Robillos
Contributor

THE STORY IS THAT THE romance between Elmer Borlongan and Plet Bolipata unfolded as they were working on their murals at Casa San Miguel, the arts haven in Zambales.

They had first met in 1995 when Elmer, or Emong, conducted an art workshop for high school students there. But the story of their romance started later, when he worked on his largest existing piece. Their romance was a story and like his art, a "meaningful conversation with life."

Emong says his narrative works are of "human interest" and thus effect a "conversation" with viewers. With Plet though, the interest went beyond just human. Their bond sprung from their shared love for art, and remains strengthened by it. Their meaningful conversation continues.

It is this non-gritty yet profound tale-telling dimension of Borlongan's works that holds their audience captive. This quality is reaffirmed while being brought to another level in a new series of works.

Last year, the Center for Art, New Ventures and Sustainable Development (Canvas) launched a children's storywriting contest with a Borlongan work as inspiration. Becky Bravo's "The Rocking Horse" bested more than 80 entries, and the winning story was presented to Emong so he could interpret them into 20 mostly oil-on-linen paintings.

The ultimate offspring of the marriage between the literary and the visual arts is a children's book to be released in October. The paintings, however, shall be exhibited beginning 6 p.m., today, at Glorietta Art Space (visit www.canvas.ph).

The works, says the artist, are a new phase for him. Absent are his expanses of dark skies with whorls of clouds or grounds that are blotches of bluish grays interspersed with white.

The characters though are still vintage Borlongan, like a bald-headed man with sharp features and taut skin.

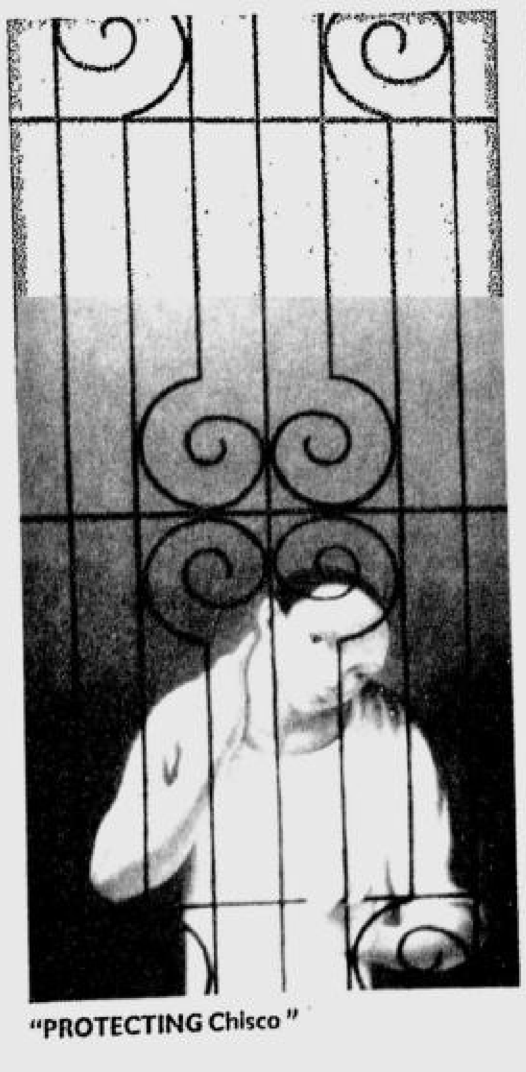
Light

Perhaps because he is making pieces to illustrate a book for youngsters, Borlongan has chosen brighter hues, particularly orange. The colors convey the light mood associated with picture books.

Always, a Borlongan work dwells on the positive rather than the glum. In compositions that depict daily plebian scenes, one sees dignity of labor as well as "adaptability and contentment" among simple and humble folk, rather than drudgery of work or alienation.

For Bravo's story, which teaches a lesson on coping with loss, Borlongan paints images of

ELMER/D4



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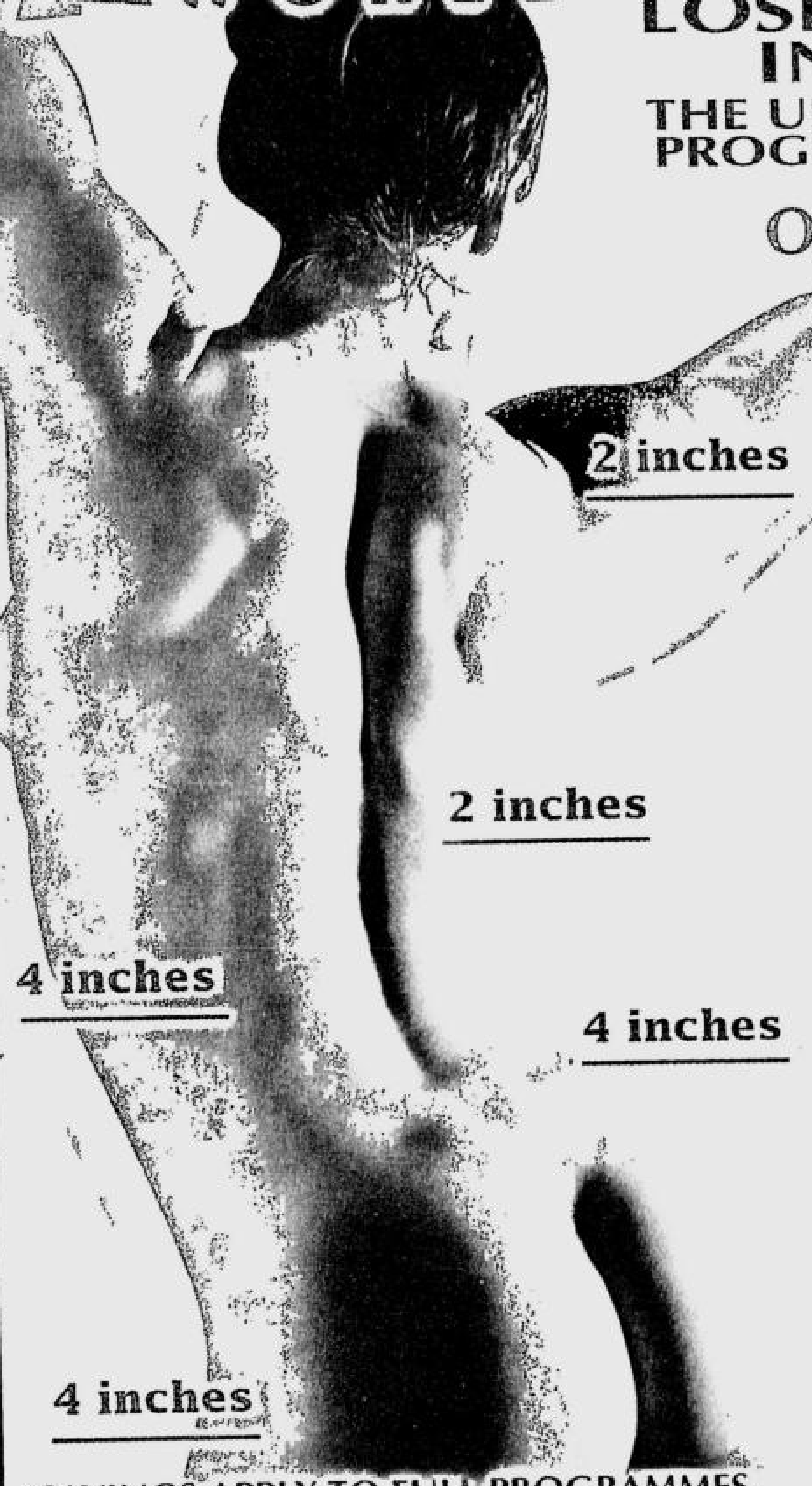

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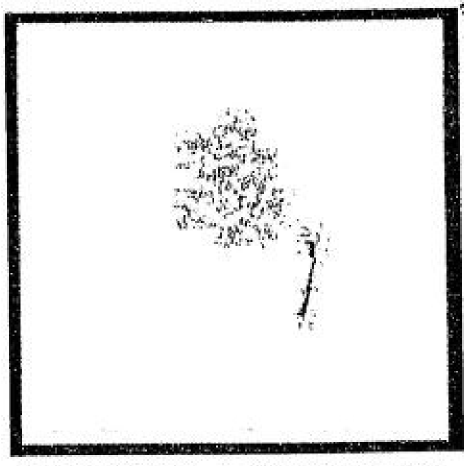
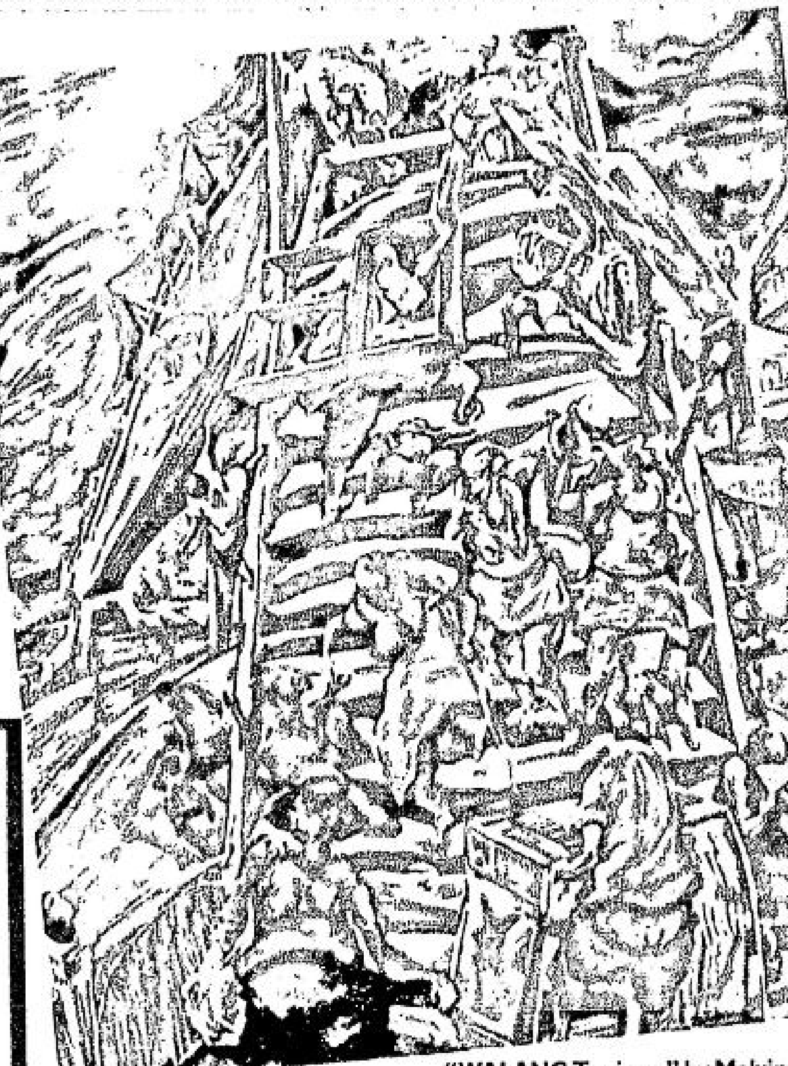
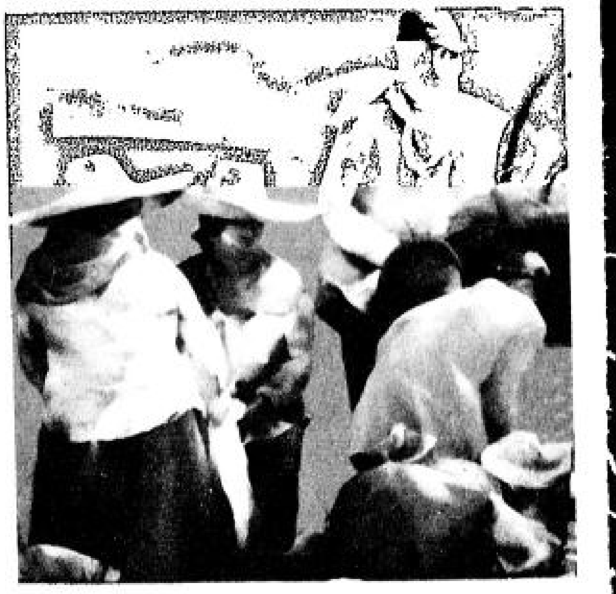
Young and merry mix of styles and modes

By Gino Dormiendo
Contributor


"THE LONELY Jester," by Art Bermido


"WALANG Tawiran," by Melvin Culaba


"POETRY for Soul B," by Ronaldo Ruiz

A RELATIVE NEWCOMER IN THE art business, Renaissance Gallery at the Art Walk in SM Megamall is marking its third year this month. In such a short time, Renaissance has become a byword in the art business, mainly because of its accessibility to artists, its derring-do and openness to new ideas and modes of art-making.

Many new names have had their first exhibits here such as Aner Sebastian, Aris Bagtas, and Fitz Herrera. Artists groups like Arttrece, Arte Pintura and Kulay Pintura have also exhibited at Renaissance.

In its anniversary show, "Young at Heart," at the Art Center of SM Megamall, until June 25, six artists, 35 years old and below, are featured: Art Bermido, Melvin Culaba, Azor Pazcoguin, Ronaldo Ruiz, Sebastian and Orley Ypon.

The merry mix of styles and modes, from representation to abstraction, indicates a pool of artists whose far-ranging sensibilities can help the gallery reach out to a wide sector of audience.

Bermido's abstraction has taken a series of unpredictable turns. Though still characteristically sparing in his imagery and avowedly minimalist in sensibility, Bermido now revels in sensory delights.

His exhibit pieces are mostly in onyx-red configuration with tiny blotches in black, a hallucinatory field of largely contrasting hues highlighted by miniscule specks in atypical hues.

The resulting visual dialogue in color primacy is obviously Rothkoesque in its assertion of formalist aesthetics vis-à-vis the accidental and interventional.

Even his titles like "The Art of Kibitzing" betray comic allusions to Zen Buddhism, with their exploration of expansive, monumental color field, with nothing to perturb it save for a black blot faintly struggling in the artist's fluid, contemplative universe.

A fervid expressionist, Culaba paints of humanity pitifully buffeted by catastrophic events. In "Walang Tawiran," the artist shows a horror show involving the ordinary folk desperately trying to save their possessions, not unlike the scenes we see in real-life reportage of people facing nature's hell-bent fury.

Guided by a central cinematic eye, Culaba unravels the steely resolve of his protagonists to save whatever can be salvaged in calamitous circumstances, of which our planet has been subjected to in recent times.

Transition

Moving his hyperrealist brush from innocuous subjects, Pazcoguin has shifted to a more socio-realist art. With an eye dead-set on exploring the textures of work and emblems of toil, Pazcoguin crops his figures in the mode and mood of a photo shoot, contriving their faces with casual intimacy.

In "Divine Workers," for instance, the artist has been obviously charmed by the subjects' work habits, with their faces totally covered from the scorching sun and public scrutiny, with clothes wrapped around their heads like Ninja warriors.

Pazcoguin has, in these works, fully come to his own, in both style and substance, as he succeeds in blazing new trails far removed from the urbane and predictable.

Ruiz is a multifaceted artist engaged in a variety of media, from painting to performance art. With his penchant for performative aesthetics, his style and substance of abstraction have moved into information technology.

"Digital Age" sets the stage for a virtual-reality discourse on the imagery unleashed by a digital techie like him. While the style hews to pure abstraction, and is reductive in composition, it is totally enamored with the interconnectivity of the digital gadgetry. The image comes from a quirky series of shots moving within a mesh of jumbled, jangled and jazzed-up cyberspace.

The works of Sebastian have impressively matured, stylistically, in recent years. A painter of arcadian landscape with a wide-angle prismatic view of things natural, Sebastian still opts to cut up his images into parts and fragments, a recourse that departs from the traditional and the stereotypical.

But the images are lovely and breathtaking, a hybrid of Lamarroza and the latter-day Ibarra dela Rosa, who in their heyday, succeeded in infusing magic to realism.

Born and raised in Cebu, Ypon paints of the sea-faring and sea-bound folk with whom he has struck deep personal ties. His works are replete with narrative underpinnings of the hardly life of the fisherfolk in his home town.

The scenes overflow, like the waters, with multifarious characters inhabiting these places, and for whom the sea has been a main source of livelihood.

Influenced by the masters of light and shadow, Martino Abellana and Romulo Galicano, also Cebu-born artists both, Ypon has long bonded with kin and kindred as he continues to scour the seas for inspiration, firmly holding a lambent brush and a nurturing paint.

E-mail author at gdormiendo@yahoo.com

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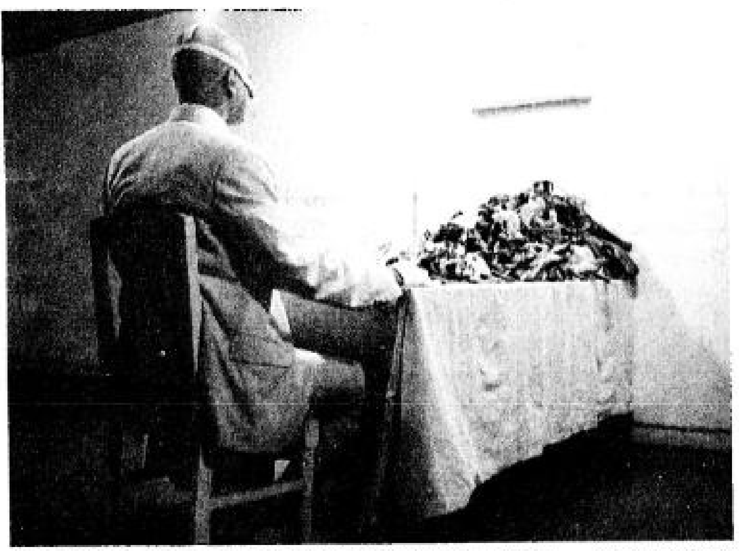
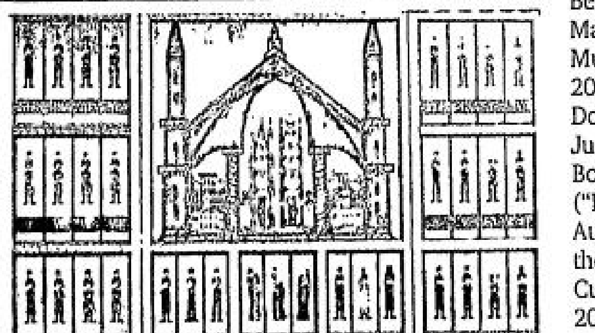
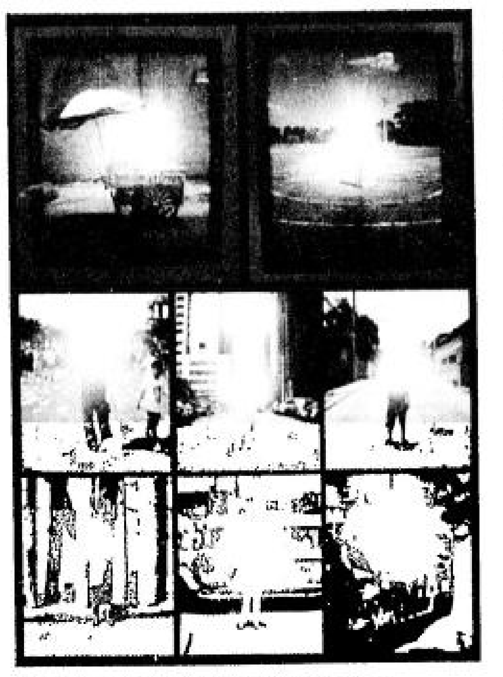
12 short-listed for Ateneo awards


"BANQUET," by Mideo Cruz (above)


"COVENANT," by Anton del Castillo


"ANONYMITY," 1 to 41 by Ronald Anading

THE ATENEO ART GALLERY, HAS SHORT-LISTED 12 artists for the 2006 Ateneo Art Awards.

The artists are Ronald Anading (for "Anonymity," Finale Art Gallery, Aug. 18-30, 2005); Yason Banal ("18 Stations to Death and Dementia," Silver Lens Gallery, Aug. 23-Sept. 14, 2005); Lena Cobangbang ("All that Heaven Allows," Finale Art Gallery, Aug. 4-16, 2005); Marina Cruz ("Kambal," Boston Gallery, May 27-June 2005); Mideo Cruz for "Banquet" (Bulwagang Fernando Amorsolo, Cultural Center of the Philippines, Feb. 2-April 2006); Anton del Castillo ("Under One Roof," Bulwagang Fernando Amorsolo, Cultural Center of the Philippines, Nov. 17-Dec. 31, 2005); Bembol de la Cruz ("The History of Things," Mag:Net ABS-CBN, April 4-30, 2006); Maya Muñoz ("Closer," Hiraya Gallery, April 8-30, 2006); Wawi Navarroza ("Polysaccharide: The Dollhouse Drama," Blacksoup Project Artspace, June 11-July 31, 2005); Rodel Tapaya ("Lunan," Boston Gallery, July 23-Aug. 17, 2005); Jay Ticar ("Pressure Points," Mag:Net ABS-CBN, July 26-Aug. 13, 2005); and Jevijoe Vitug ("Lessons from the Masters," Bulwagang Fernando Amorsolo, Cultural Center of the Philippines, Sept. 22-Nov. 6, 2005).

The final 12 were selected by the 2006 Ateneo Art Awards Jury after going through over 70 nominations. Each artist, a Filipino citizen, 35 years or under by May 31, was nominated for a solo or group exhibition in any public venue held between May 2, 2005, and May 1, 2006.

From the short-list, the jury will deliberate on June 21 to determine the three recipients of the awards. The winners will be announced on Aug. 8 at the Rockwell Tent.

An exhibit of the short-listed artists, "Outbound," will be held at Power Plant Mall from Aug. 1-6.

One of the 2006 Ateneo Art Awards winners will be chosen for the Ateneo Art Gallery Sydney Studio Residency Grant, which provides the selected artist with round-trip airfare, accommodation and a work studio for three weeks, an allowance, as well as an invitation to exhibit at the Cross Art Projects, a leading alternative art space in the city. The final selection from among the three winners shall be made by the Sydney gallery, which will also be announced during the Awards ceremony.

Call 4266488 or. e-mail cchikiamco@ateneo.edu

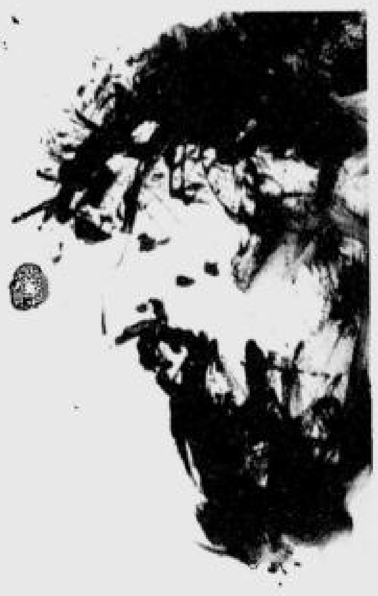
VISUAL ARTS

'Long Goodbye' at Mag:net

"Long Goodbye" will open at Mag:net Katipunan tomorrow. Curated by Roberto Chabet, the show features several artists bidding farewell "to modernism and its promised utopias, to history in the age of anti-history, and to art itself in the age of anti-art." Artists include Poklong Anading, Lena Cobangbang, Alfred Cruz, Bembol de la Cruz, Rain Dial, Nilo Ilarde, Paolo Martinez, Jet Melencio, Jonathan Olazo, Jayson Oliveria, Gary Ross Pastrana, Jucar Raquepo, Italo Tals, Alvin Villaruel and M.M. Yu. On view until July 8. Mag:net Katipunan is at Agcor Bldg., 335 Katipunan Road, Loyola Heights, QC. Call 9293191.

"Earth Art" at Stairway

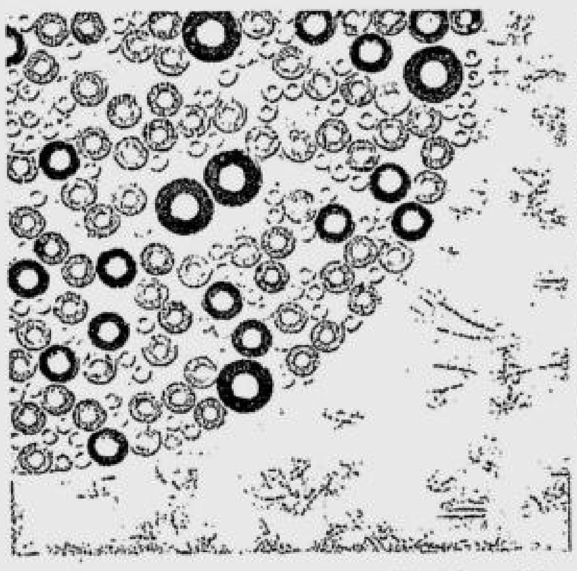
A group exhibit by Leo Meneses, Zaldy Arbozo, Vic Dabao, Nick Aranda, Teddy Santos and Fritz Silorio is ongoing at the Stairway Gallery, 115 Kamuning Road, Quezon City. "Earth Art" features the works of the founding members on the theme,. "Re-inhabitation, a human consciousness of getting back to Mother Earth." The exhibit runs until July 9. Call 0920-9214909.



"PASSION of Christ," by Sherwin Tan

Sena art lessons

Fernando B. Sena will hold art lessons at the following venues: Philippine Medical Womens' Association, Malakas St. and V. Luna Road, QC (Saturday and Sunday); UP Jorge Vargas Museum, Diliman, QC (Wednesday); and Triumph Building, Quezon Ave., QC. Classes start on June 21. Call 3762196 and 3762337.



"HOMAGE to Klimit," by May M. Tobias

Sherwin Tan at Ayala

Sherwin Tan presents "Love Letters," July 4-18, at the Ayala Museum. Tan, who took up Fine Arts at the University of San Carlos in Cebu. The show consists of abstract landscapes and depictions of nature as well as spiritual evocations. Visit www.sherwinctan.com or e-mail sherwin_c_tan@yahoo.com

Reventar at Ayala

Landscape painter Captain Dan Reventar's "Psalms in Color" is running until June 29 at the MuseumSpace, Ayala Museum. Tranquil landscapes bathed in soft evening or morning lights are Reventar's favorite subjects, bearing witness to the importance he places on the orchestration of color, mood and movement in sky and cloud formation. Call 7577117 to 21 local 31.

Workshop

The Ayala Museum will hold workshops on Intermediate Jewelry Making, Book Arts, Introduction to Acrylics, Introduction to Sculpture and Intermediate Watercolors. Registration is ongoing. Call 7577117 local 29, fax 7573588 or e-mail inquiry@ayalamuseum.org. Online registration through www.ayalamuseum.org

Tobias at Corredor

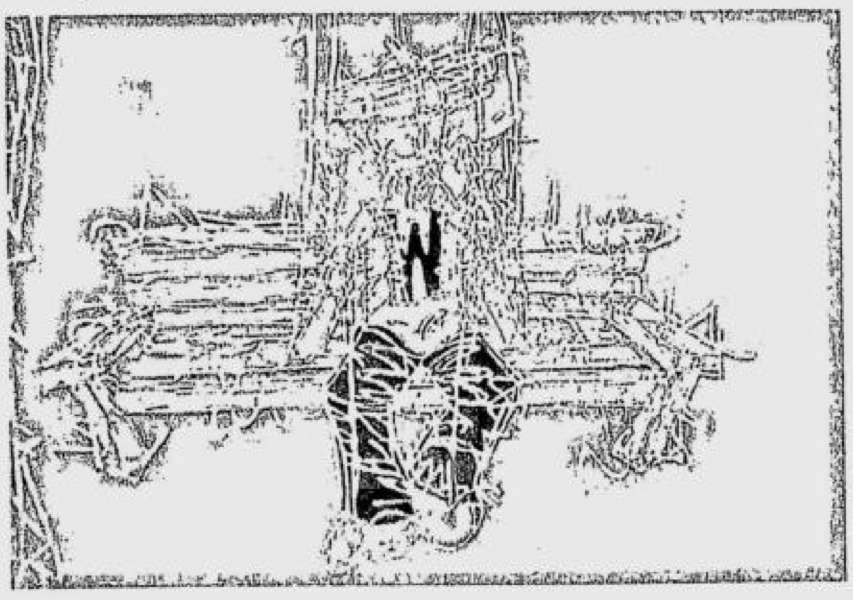
May M. Tobias' first solo exhibit, "Abstract Reasoning," is running until June 30 at The Corredor, UP College of Fine Arts, Bartlett Hall, E. Jacinto St., Diliman, QC. Tobias finds inspiration in her materials—unlikely and disparate objects ranging from construction hardware to indigenous craft materials.

Pingol at Heritage

Aljo Sevilla Pingol's "Beyond Imagination" will open at the Heritage Art Gallery in SM Megamall on June 26 at 6 p.m. A Fine Arts graduate from the University of Santo Tomas, Aljo is known for his women figures with luscious lips and ripe figures. Until July 1. Call 6342436.

Mopera at Frio Mixx

Young painter Arden Mopera presents his works at the new art space of Frio Mixx located at the 5/F, Youth Zone of Shangri-La Plaza Mall. Mopera presents a new series of works of an "artist as diarist," where imagery, subject and thoughts are presented in shorthand compositions of personal content. The exhibit runs until June 30. Call 6327921 or 0922-8217224.



"JEALOUSY," Arden Tuzon Mopera

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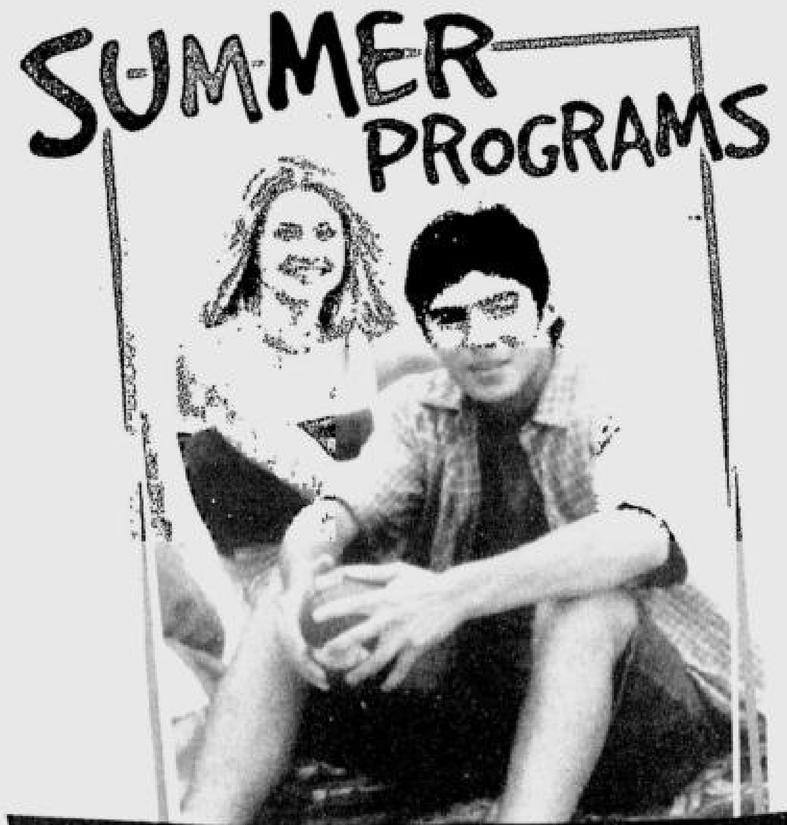

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Have you ever come inside from a smoke-break to find you've missed out on a great conversation or funny joke? Have you ever missed out on a picture-perfect moment of your child because you just couldn't resist the craving any longer? Have you ever found yourself running embarrassingly late to a social event because you had to have "one last cigarette" before you left the house?

"Smoking can be addicting. Cigarettes fulfill the criteria for substance dependence as they deliver significant amounts of nicotine which is a positive reinforcer. When a person quits the habit, he experiences several withdrawal symptoms during abstinence which is only relieved by nicotine administration," explains Dr. Daniel Tan, president of Tobacco-Free Philippines.

Nicotine is one of over 4,000 substances found in cigarette smoke. It's a common misconception that it causes cancer but it does not. Instead, it is the other substances in cigarettes that are mainly responsible for bringing physical damage to your body. Nicotine in cigarettes is what makes it so hard to stop smoking.

A Welcome Arrival

This is where the Nicorette (nicotine) gum comes in. It is a form of Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT) that has assisted thousands of smokers around the world for over 20 years to beat the habit by controlling their cravings. Now smokers need only chew mint-flavored and sugar-free Nicorette gum to provide their body with just enough nicotine to reduce the cravings.

Dr. Lenora Fernandez, Clinical Associate Professor at the Department of Medicine at the UP College of Medicine, welcomes the arrival of Nicorette in the country. "The availability of a pharmacological treatment like the Nicorette gum will further boost the country's smoking cessation programs. The use of Nicorette along with a stop smoking program will definitely increase success rates of those who want to quit smoking." And Dr. Fernandez should know. She is also the Consultant Coordinator of Philippine General Hospital's Comprehensive Ambulatory Respiratory (CARE) Program and Stop Smoking Program.

Don't think cigarettes. Think Nicorette.

Nicorette gum is highly recommended for people who need to relieve their withdrawal symptoms because they want to stop smoking immediately, or want to reduce smoking gradually, then quit.

It works by releasing nicotine into the saliva and is absorbed through the lining of the mouth. Its effect is a noticeable decrease in both the cravings and withdrawal symptoms that a smoker goes through when trying to quit. Nicorette and willpower combined doubles one's chances of quitting successfully.

By using Nicorette when cravings strike, smokers can get on the path to giving up smoking and focus on their pastimes and hobbies, stay in the company of their friends and families and enjoy life to the fullest.

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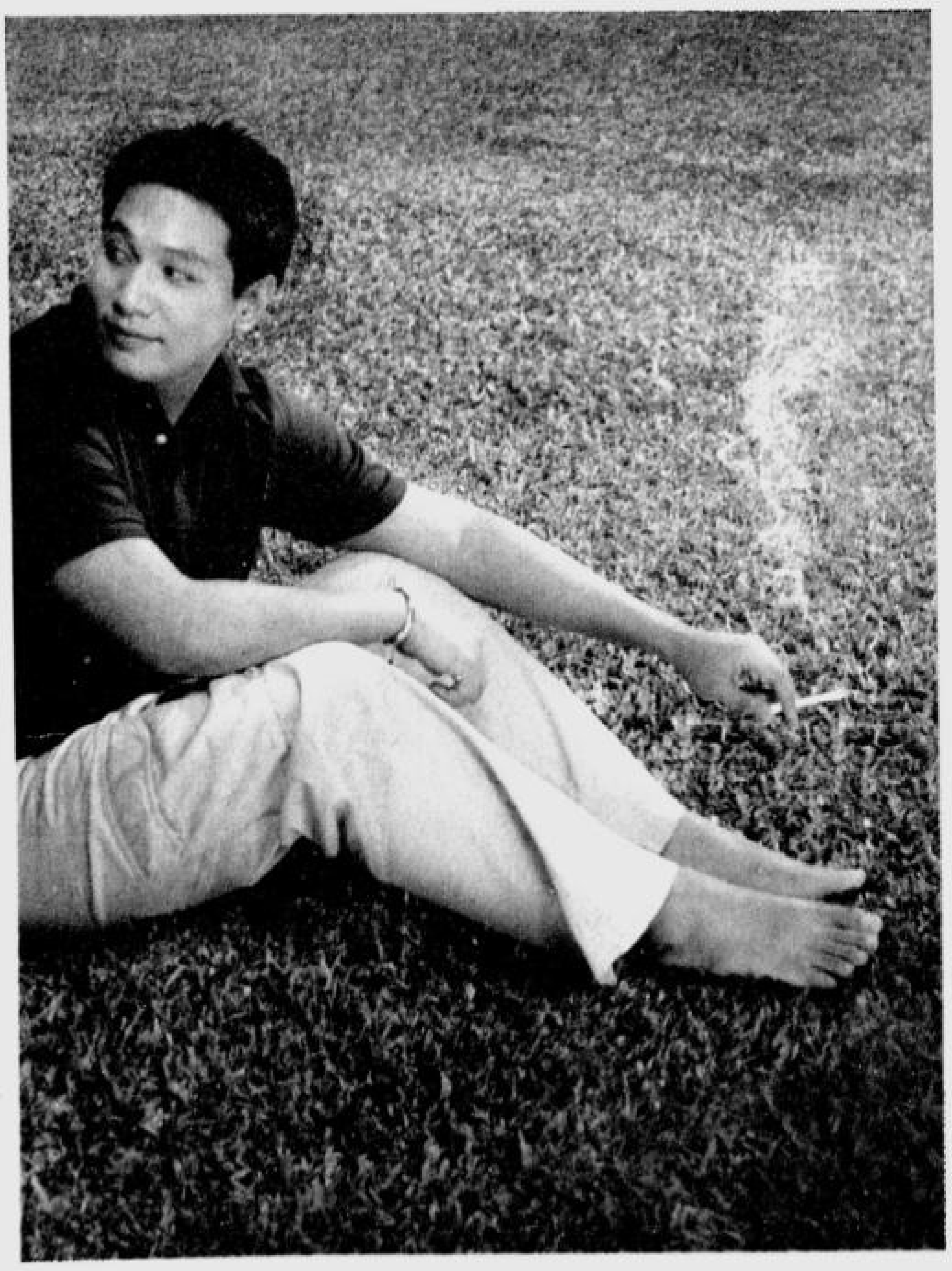

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Elmer Borlongan's art ...

From page D1

resilience. His previous show in fact was dubbed "Mauway," the Tagalog equivalent of resilience.

"Father and Son 1," for instance, shows a man embracing a boy as they sit by the portrait of a wife and mother gone too soon. The heart-wrenching scene speaks volumes of the absence, but it also speaks of acceptance. On the father's face is the resolve to be his son's prime care and support.

"Protecting Chisco" shows the boy looking through a grille. There is an air of fatigue about the ailing child. His face speaks of longing. Borlongan says he "zooms in" on facial expressions, while including "elements beyond the visual field." The light colors evokes effectively the emotional import.

In "Chisco and His Tree," the lad hugs the wide girth of his favorite *kamagong* tree, his short arms not enough to complete the embrace. His neck is bent back, as he looks up to the robust head of leaves whose blocking of the sunlight is reflected on the dappled grass below. The light trick shows attention to detail, so admirable in a non-realist work. (It helps that in Casa San Miguel, Borlongan is always afforded similar sights.)

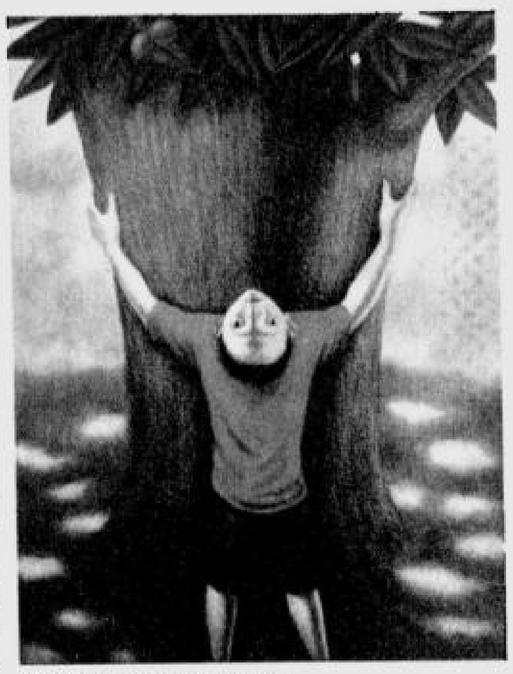
In "The Horse that Rocks," Chisco enjoys the ride with a small guitar strapped on his shoulder. Captured here is the sheer and breathless joy of being alive.

Borlongan describes the book-illustration project as "fresh, exciting and challenging." The works certainly show that.

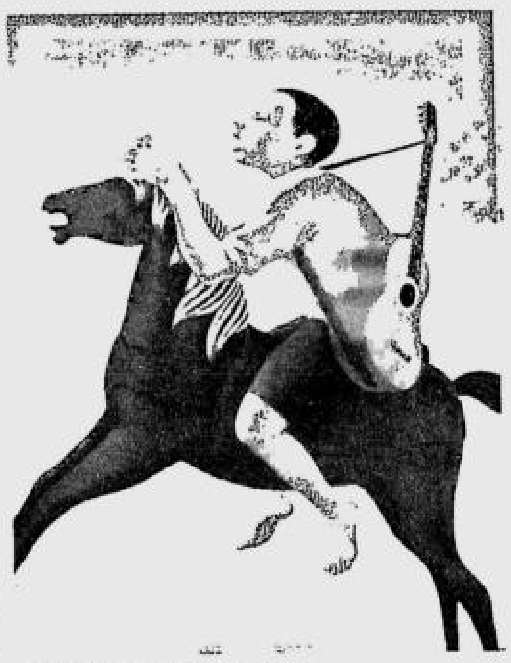
In a way, the book project yields a lot of firsts for Borlongan. It is his first interpretation of a tale for kids and his first use of linen as medium. He has been able to achieve all of these firsts while retaining the power to create laudable visual food for thought.

E-mail the author at majorday@gmail.com

ELMER Borlongan and Plet Bolipata



"CHISCO and His Tree"



"THE HORSE that Rocks"

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FUNERAL Mass for Cardinal Sin

The last journey of Sin

Cardinal Sin, whose first death anniversary the nation marks this week, is fondly remembered by his personal photographer

STORY ON PAGE E2

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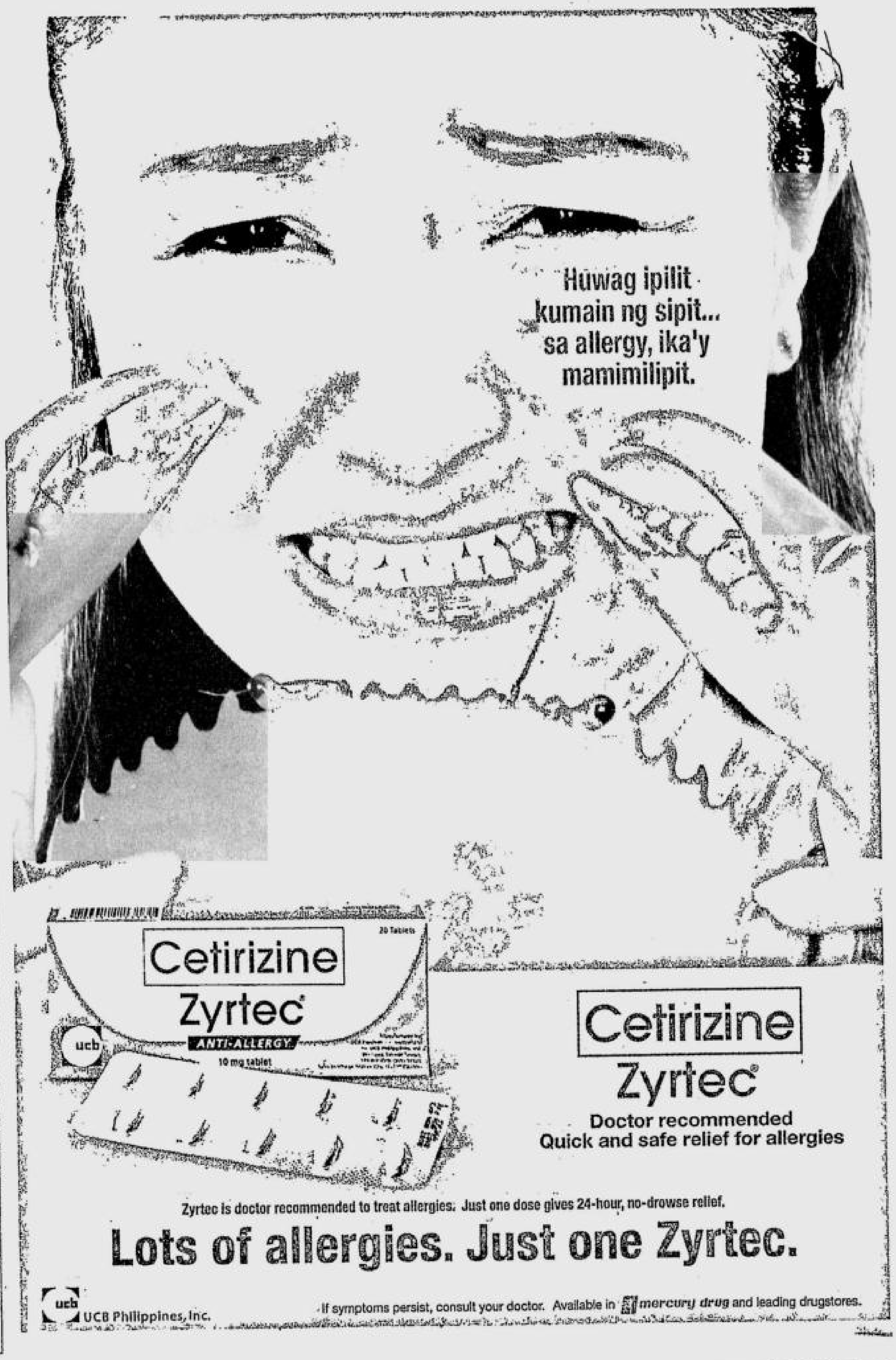
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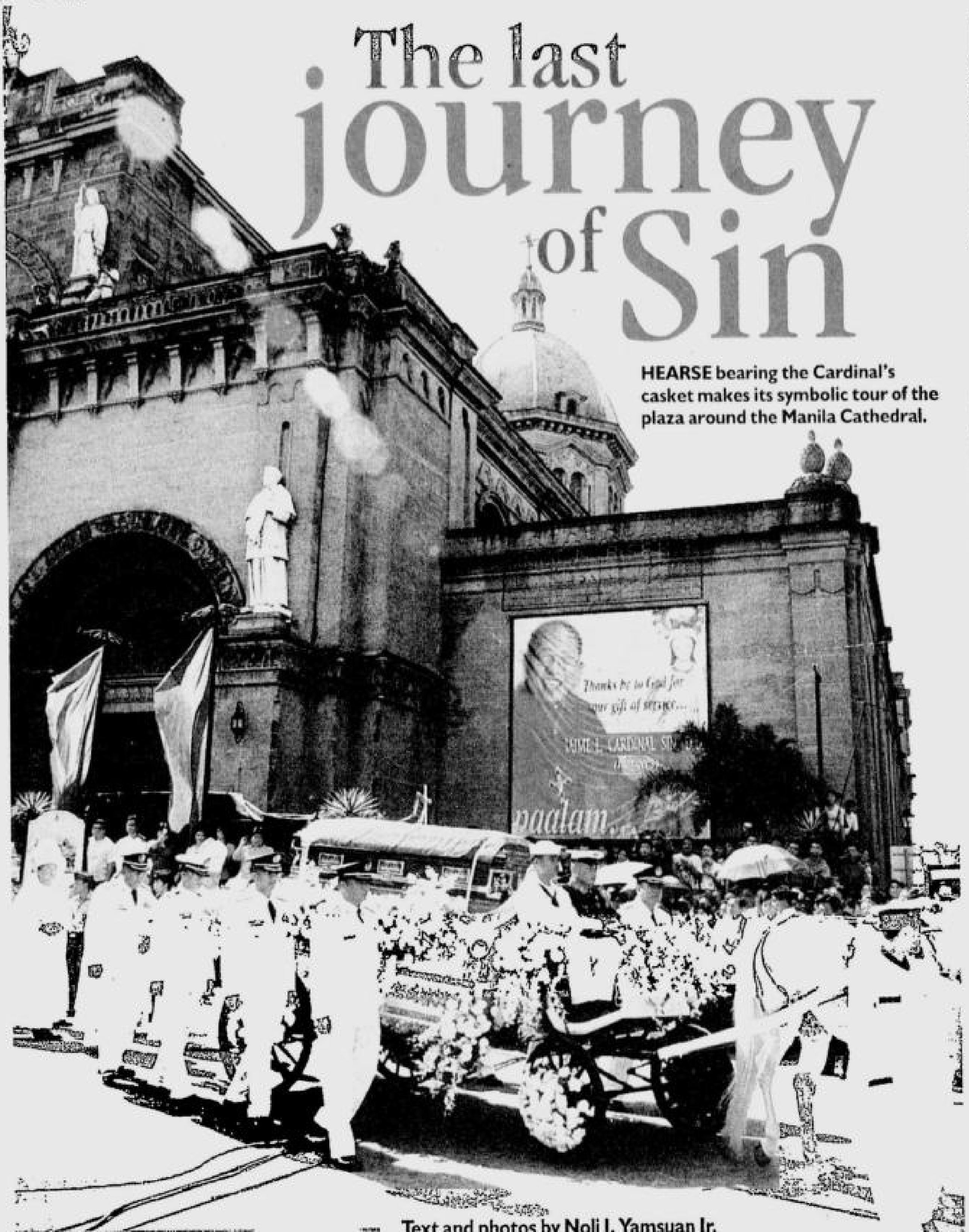
The last journey of Sin



HEARSE bearing the Cardinal's casket makes its symbolic tour of the plaza around the Manila Cathedral.

Text and photos by Noli I. Yamsuan Jr.
Contributor

THE CARDINAL'S casket is prepared to be brought down.

PALL-BEARERS bring down the casket to the Cathedral crypt.

DURING BIG OCCASIONS AT THE Manila Cathedral, I would wait for his arrival at the steps in front of the great doors. On the morning of June 21, 2005, I was waiting with a borrowed digital camera in hand but this time his arrival was different from any I had covered. During those other times we would all be ready to return the huge smile with which he greeted those who welcomed him. This time we—the priests, nuns and lay people—only had tears in our eyes. When he finally arrived, for the last time at the Manila Cathedral, close to noon that day, it was only to impress on us that he had left. Our beloved Jaime L. Cardinal Sin had left us.

The wooden coffin arrived in a hearse and the priests brought it inside the cathedral in silence. No clapping of hands this time. People started to flow into the cathedral, some unbelieving, others crying. They started queuing to view his remains and some broke out in amazement, "He does not look dead at all!"

People from all walks of life flowed into the Cathedral the one week he laid in state. I took pictures of visitors from all walks of life and from all over the Philippines. They visited him and admired him when he was alive and now they came to thank him in their own silent way.

An old lady in a wheelchair lovingly touched his coffin. Jamie Rivera sang a favorite song of the cardinal one night. An old man unabashedly broke out in tears at the sight of his coffin. Parents with children in tow patiently lined up to give him a final look.

Students paid their respects to someone they know as a hero. Leaders of other faiths paid him tribute as a friend, as a coworker in interreligious dialogue.

The knights and dames of Malta in black vestments bowed before his coffin. Nuns in an assortment of habits prayed while passing by.

FILIPINO nuns from the Missionaries of Charity, the congregation founded by Mother Teresa of Calcutta

Men in suits and barong Tagalogs lined up along with people in tattered clothes and the poor in well-worn slippers.

I cried when a man dropped to the carpeted floor at the foot of the coffin to pay his respect. When he stood up I noticed that he had only one leg and was hopping with his right foot.

The flow of people seemed endless. Familiar faces came to condole with his family: the brothers Ramon and Manuel, and his sisters, Ceferina and Mary with their families, came to see James, as they fondly call him, for the last time, choosing to remain in the background, just as they always did, even while their brother was in the limelight.

The time to say our final goodbye came on the 28th of June. The coffin was brought out of the cathedral for the state honors to be given him by a grateful nation.

Foreign cardinals

His coffin was draped in a Philippine flag and was placed in a caisson by the military honor guard. His former auxiliary bishops, other bishops and the military honor contingent followed the caisson pulled by a pair of white horses in a silent procession amid the chants of people saying goodbye to their beloved archbishop.

The flag that draped his coffin was turned over to Dr. Ramon Sin by President Macapagal-Arroyo. The coffin was draped in white and blessed by Manila Archbishop Gaudencio B. Cardinal Rosales and the Mass began in the presence of four foreign cardinals who came for the funeral: Richard Cardinal Mahony of Los Angeles, Peter Cardinal Shirayanagi of Tokyo, Paul Cardinal Shan Kui-shi of Taiwan and Julius Riyadi Cardinal Darmaatmadja of Jakarta.

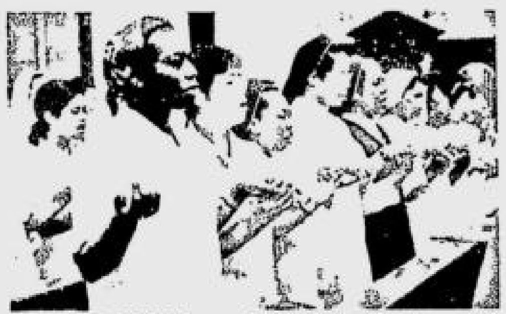
After the mass, Ricardo Cardinal Vidal recited the prayer of committal and the coffin followed by the Catholic Bishops of the Philippines was brought to the crypt underneath the altar of the cathedral where former archbishops of Manila, Archbishops Miguel O'Doherty, Gabriel Reyes and Rufino Cardinal Santos are buried.

Tears clouded my vision and the thought that I was saying goodbye to a man of God, a father, a friend and my favorite subject for the last time made this the most difficult coverage in my career. I remember when he would always ask me, "Noli, when will this end?" referring to his many activities. And this time the only answer I could muster was silence.

The book, "'Remember I Love You All Very Dearly,' Jaime L. Cardinal Sin: The Final Journey," chronicles my last coverage of His Eminence. It contains messages and homilies during his wake and funeral mass and testimonies from people who worked and collaborated with him in his ministry. It is published by Serviam Foundation, one of whose projects is the Cardinal Sin Village in Punta Sta. Ana. All proceeds from the book will be used for Serviam Foundation's programs for the poor.

The book will be launched at the Edsa Shrine on June 20, 5:30 p.m., at the Edsa Shrine.

FORMER President Corazon Aquino



MANILA faithful pray for the Cardinal

MEMBER of the archdiocesan clergy pays his last respects

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo presents Ramon Sin, the Cardinal's brother, the Philippine flag

CARDINALS Paul Shan Kui-shi of Taiwan and Roger Mahony of Los Angeles bring Cardinal Sin to his final resting place.

'Too Small to Ignore' author comes to Manila

COMPASSION PRESIDENT AND "Too Small to Ignore" author Wess Stafford will visit the Philippines on June 24, at the Compassion alumni gathering to be held at Crossroad 77, Mother Ignacia Avenue, in QC. Compassion is an international Christian sponsorship organization that ministers to children in 24 countries around the world.

"Children are easy to ignore in the busy mainstream of human life. They rarely cry out if overlooked, or worse, traumatized and abused. Yet it is vital for the future of humanity that we make children a priority in every area of life," says Stafford in his book.

Stafford has always believed that young people are a priceless resource. Having grown up in an African village at the Ivory Coast, he recalls traveling to places where children were introduced to Christ at an early age. These children went to school and grew up to become schoolteachers, nurses, politicians and pastors. "They, in fact, change the environment of the community in which they live," explains Stafford. "We essentially need to guide the life of a child. Let the child discover his/her talents and God-given potentials. Disciple the child to walk with Christ..."

Following his missionary parents' ministry to the poor, Stafford pursued advocacy work for children who have "no voice." While a Moody Bible Institute student in Chicago in the mid-1960s, he spearheaded literacy and recreation programs among the impoverished children in the inner city.

His studies at the Moody Bible Institute, Biola University and Wheaton College further heightened his passion for "people development," which led him to earn his Ph.D. in non-formal education from Michigan State University. Involvement with Compassion soon followed.

"Compassion's philosophy of people development dovetailed with everything my experience told me was true," says Stafford. "To preserve the dignity of those being helped, to focus on empowering people by equipping them rather than 'doing for them,' and to enhance cultures through ministering children—it was a perfect match."

Compassion's major programs include the Child Survival Program (CSP), Child Development through Sponsorship Program (CDSP) and Leadership Development Program (LDP).

CSP caters to mothers and children from 0-7 years old by ensuring that the young ones survive their early years when they are most vulnerable to disease and malnutrition. CDSP assists children and young adults aged 7-21 years old by providing health care, education and training in social and vocational skills.

On the other hand, LDP helps deserving Compassion-registered youth in pursuing college education.

Compassion has been present in 24 countries spread in four continents: Bangladesh, Bolivia, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Mexico, Nicaragua, Peru, Philippines, Rwanda, Tanzania, Thailand and Uganda. In the Philippines, it presently ministers to 33,000 impoverished children.

Over 1,000 Compassion alumni from all over the Philippines are expected to join Stafford on June 24. The event will bear the theme, "Committed to Pass It On." Call 3733021 to 23. E-mail jaimelchor@yahoo.com or jfuentes@ph.ci.org

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New books on Rizal from New Day

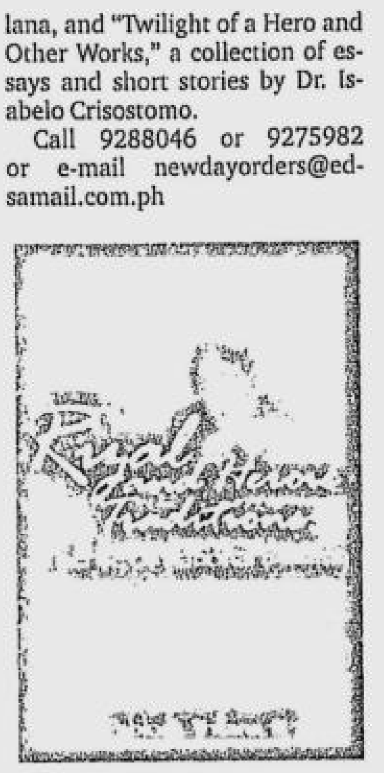
NEW DAY PUBLISHERS, the pioneer Filipiniana and religious publishing company, is releasing "Rizal and Heroic Traditions: A Sense of National Destiny," by Pablo Trillana III, in observance of the 145th birth anniversary of national hero Dr. José Rizal.

The 200-page, two-part book is a collection of essays on Rizal, history, governance, education and culture.

Trillana, former National Historical Institute chair, describes Rizal as the "Icon of the Malay Race," the "Tagalog Christ," a futurist, a federalist, and an ordinary man.

Other New Day books on Rizal are "The Loves of Rizal and Other Essays on Philippine History, Art and Public Policy," also by Trillana, and "Twilight of a Hero and Other Works," a collection of essays and short stories by Dr. Isabelo Crisostomo.

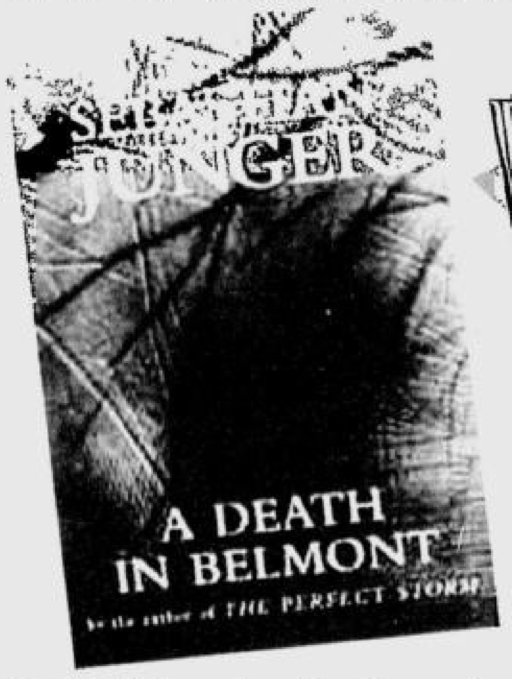
Call 9288046 or 9275982 or e-mail newdayorders@edsamail.com.ph



‘Death’ be not proud

“A Death in Belmont”
By Sebastian Junger
W.W. Norton & Company, New York,
2006, 266 pages

By Ruel S. De Vera



WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF YOU FOUND OUT a serial killer had free rein in your house when you were an infant? That is precisely the criminal conundrum cauterized by Sebastian Junger in his newest true-to-life tome. Instead of the sweeping seaborne saga of “The Perfect Storm,” Junger zooms in tightly on his own memories and what branches off from those in the tight, thin and at time terrifying “A Death in Belmont.”

All that one needs to understand at the heart of this book is a single photograph, taken in 1962, one that appears before the first chapter. In it, an infant Sebastian is in the arms of his mother, Ellen, an old carpenter named Floyd Wiggins, and, in the middle, a muscular workman named Alberto DeSalvo. In those years, 11 women were strangled and raped in the Boston area, including one in the Jungers’ quiet suburb of Belmont. The perpetrator behind those killings eluded a manhunt and set off hysteria, gaining the grim moniker “the Boston Strangler.”

And the man who would confess to being the Strangler? His name was Al DeSalvo. Back then, DeSalvo was just a taciturn laborer working on the Jungers’ studio extension. In fact, the brawny DeSalvo would often be in the house alone with Ellen, and on one occasion, almost succeeded in inviting her into the cellar. Wisely, Ellen stayed away and perhaps avoided becoming another one of the Strangler’s victims.

Junger jumps off from this bizarre point and depicts a nation frozen with fear because of this seemingly invisible assailant. A black man named Roy Smith would eventually be apprehended and accused of the Belmont crime, the rape-slay of a woman named Bessie Goldberg. Smith would be found guilty and spend the rest of his life in prison.

Junger takes pains to remind readers that this was a different time, before forensics and the other tricks of the crime-solving trade which have become commonplace by now. It was a different time, but Belmont could have been anywhere in America. It was an America that had yet to find the term “serial killer” in its daily lexicon. “The psychological mechanism that compels a person to commit a sex murder is not in a constant state of readiness; it waxes and wanes like every other form of mental illness,” Junger explains.

Employing the sharp reportorial skills that made him a sensation, Junger tracks down the history of his family, of Roy Smith and of DeSalvo. He revisits 1963 with shocking clarity, unveiling an America still coming to terms with desegregation. He traces Belmont’s origins as an almost ideal, rarefied subdivision in old-fashioned New England. In that sense, the Boston Strangler was a product of those crimes. He finds old files and records, pulling together this tragic tableau, going into medical and scientific exposition about the nature of these investigations. There is a fair bit of conjecture here to try and debate the contentious nature of the circumstances surrounding Smith’s arrest and DeSalvo’s confession. “Death” also features a cast of characters with lives that were eventful before the events of 1963, but, in many ways, had lives even stranger afterwards. Real life, after all, is always messier and ambivalent when compared to fiction.

Despite the clinical approach that Junger takes in researching “Death,” it is clear that he remains in shock of just how close his family came to this murderer. Perhaps this leads to one of the book’s weaker qualities. For all the violent details and the incisive insight that Junger employs, “Death” feels stretched, a bit overly extended considering it really arises only from a single event—the Junger family’s encounter with DeSalvo.

While the tangents “Death” goes to are interesting, these don’t erase the feeling of the book being longer than it has to be. This has the effect of making the reader impatient, especially when Junger reflects on the background of the people involved when what the reader wants to know is what happens next.

And that is why this short if ambitious book stands at a dynamic crossroads, because “Death” straddles the line between true-crime story and memoir. It is clearly not the second coming of “The Perfect Storm,” which is a superior book in scope and execution, but Junger’s finely honed prose still makes “A Death in Belmont” a page-turner, finding a uniquely personal topic that mixes fear with fact, resulting in a strange book about a strange crime from a strange time.

‘The Perfect Storm’ author remembers an odd intersection of crime and personal history in a landlocked new book

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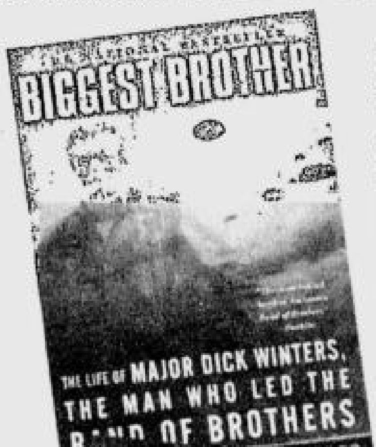
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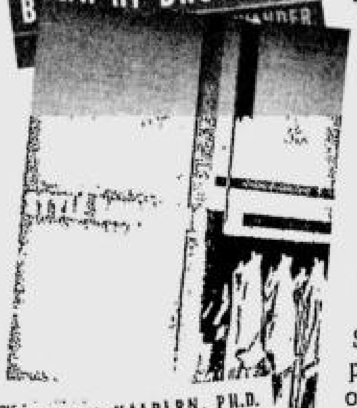
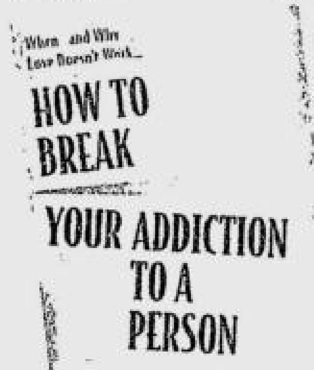
BIGGEST BROTHER
THE LIFE OF MAJOR DICK WINTERS, THE MAN WHO LED THE BAND OF BROTHERS




HOWARD M. HALPERN, PH.D.
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CHEF ANTHONY BOURDAIN DISHES OUT THE secrets of what goes on behind the kitchen doors in “Kitchen Confidential.” This deliciously funny and delectable shocking collection of wild but true tales that lays out Bourdains 25 years of sex, drugs and haute cuisine will make the reader double up with laughter.

“Biggest Brother” by Larry Alexander tells the inspiring life story of Major Dick Winters.

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In “Under and Alone,” undercover agent William Queen gives a gripping account of his experiences infiltrating America’s most violent outlaw motorcycle gang. This true story is an adrenaline-charged read that puts you on the street with some of the most dangerous men in America and with the law enforcement agents who risk everything to bring them in.

Paco Underhill’s “Why We Buy: The Science of Shopping” provides an eye-opening and witty report on our ever-evolving consumer culture based on hard data taken from thousands of hours of field research.

“Guanxi (The Art of Relationships): Microsoft, China, and Bill Gates’ Plan to Win the Road Ahead” by Robert Buderi and Gregory T. Huang is the compelling on-the-scenes tale of the allure of China today—and of a unique partnership between the world’s most famous capitalist and the world’s largest communist nation that showcases what it takes to compete in the age of global innovation.

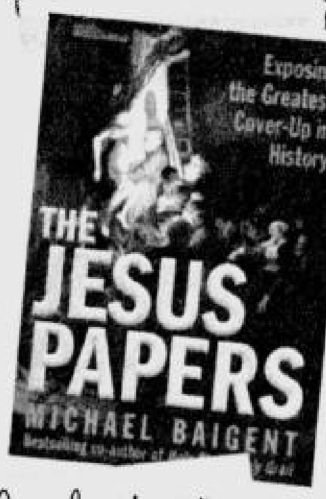
Bob Marley was a reggae superstar, a musical prophet who brought the sound of the Third World to the entire globe. “Before the Legend: The Rise of Bob Marley” by Christopher John Farley goes beyond the myth of Marley to bring you the private side of a man few people ever really knew.

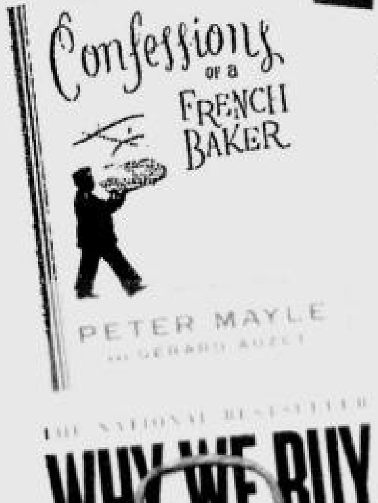
Kelley Cheng and Narelle Yabuka’s “Style Shopping: Shops and Showrooms” goes beyond the window displays and into the minds of designers of some of Asia Pacific’s most tempting retail interiors. Varied they may be but they all succeed in creating an exciting and memorable experience for the consumer.

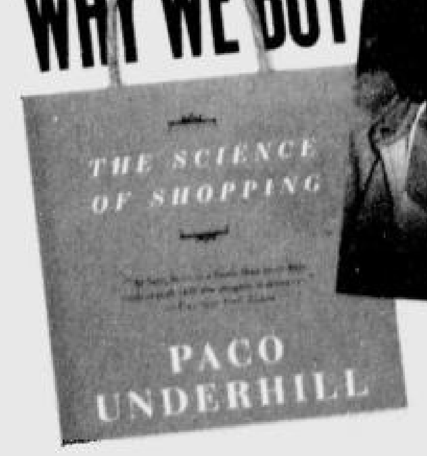
“The Jesus Papers: Exposing the Greatest Cover-Up in History” by Michael Baigent reveals the truth about Jesus’ life and crucifixion.

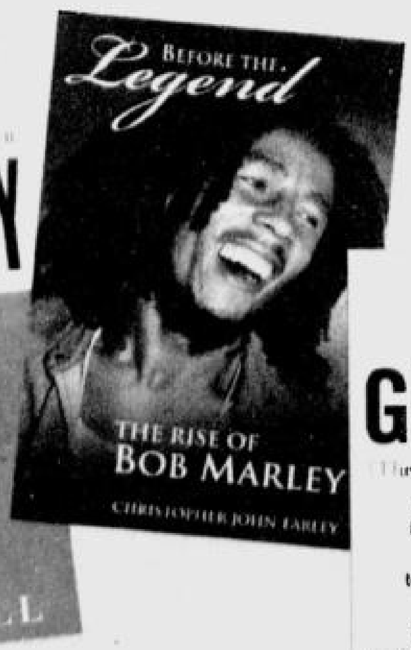
In “Confessions of a French Baker: Breadmaking Secrets, Tips, and Recipes,” Peter Mayle joins forces with Gerard Auzet, the proprietor of the most glorious of Provencal bakeries, the Chez Auzet, to tell us about breadmaking at its finest. With 16 different bread recipes, it is a charming guide that makes one of Provence’s oldest and most delicious pleasures available in your own kitchen.

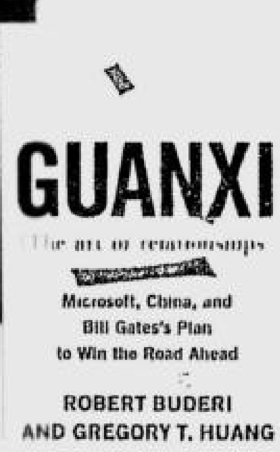
The books are available at PowerBooks Specialty Store, which has branches at Greenbelt 4 (7576428 to 29), Megamall (6352898 to 99), Alabang Town Center (8505662 to 63), Glorietta 3 (7527075), Shangri-La (6380023/25) and Robinsons Place Ermita (5233334/5243448).







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Focus on modeling and Ayala siblings

THE JUNE ISSUE OF METRO MAGAZINE gives a lowdown on modeling, from ramp divas through the decades to today's top models, including Iya Villania (on the cover) and Charo Ronquillo, the first Asian to place in the Supermodel of the World competition.

The issue also reports on Pinoy models who have made it abroad and how models keep in shape.

The issue likewise reports on the latest acne and wrinkle breakthroughs. The fashion spreads feature the best in corporate style.

Meanwhile, the latest issue of Metro Society has the handsome Ayala brothers Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala and Fernando Zobel de Ayala on the cover. The two talk about their outdoors passion, particularly their love for biking.

Claudio Bravo, Rocio Urquijo-Zobel, Emily SyCip-Cheng are also profiled. The three internationally acclaimed artists have all stayed in the Philippines with SyCip Cheng's works currently on exhibit at the Ayala Museum.

Bravo's luminous portraits of Manila's society icons such as Evelyn Lim-Forbes, Regina Dee, Elvira Manahan, Gretchen Oppen-Cojuangco, Ting Ting de los Reyes-Cojuangco, Mari Soriano, Luis Araneta, Anton Roxas, Chita LaO, Lindy and Cecille Locsin, Jaime and Bea Zobel de Ayala, and Baby Fores have become invaluable reference points in Philippine social history.

The issue focuses on corporate charities such as the Gawad Kalinga Foundation, Pangarap Shelter, and Cebu's Doña Esperanza Velez charities.

Armchair travelers will enjoy the Intramuros walking tour with the peripatetic Carlos Celdran as an irreverent but witty guide; and the Pride and Prejudice gardens in Groomsbridge Place, England, with Virgil Calaguian.

Dining Finds features Hyatt Hotel and Casino's Fireplace, Shangri-La Edsa's Heat, and the Manila Pen's Spices.

Also in the issue is a special supplement on real estate and second homes from Landco Pacific.

Metro Magazine and Metro Society are available nationwide.

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Stephen A. Macchia

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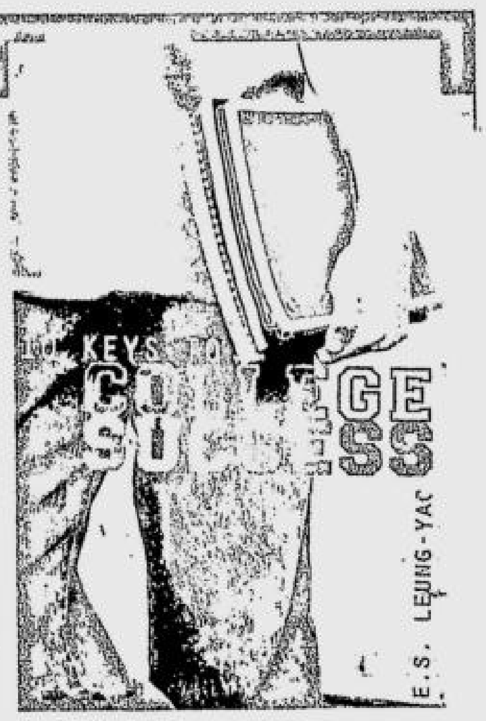
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Atlantis Productions' 'Doubt' does exacting justice to John Patrick Shanley's gripping parable on blind certainty

CHERIE Gil as Sr. Aloysius and Cathy Azanza as Sr. James in "Doubt," directed by Chari Arespacochaga

Truth or consequence

By Gibbs Cadiz

SHE HATES LONG NAILS, ballpoint pens, Christmas pageants. She thinks art and dance subjects are a waste of time. As principal of a working-class grade school, she feels no need to cozy up to the kids, believing them deserving of an iron hand instead. She is quick, snappish, efficient. She'd outpester any pest, drive a hornet from its nest, throw a whirling dervish out of whirl…

Ooops, wrong nun.

But how, indeed, do you solve a problem like Sister Aloysius, that Rottweiler in a wimple embodied with such implacable authority by the film actress Cherie Gil in Atlantis Productions' "Doubt, A Parable," now running at the Carlos P. Romulo Auditorium in RCBC Plaza, Makati?

Those who've lived a good part of their movie-going lives relishing the sight of Gil chewing the scenery as the resident party wrecker in many a Viva melodrama might think Sr. Aloysius is not much of a stretch for the actress. This nun, after all, is also a tormentor, a cold fish, a "block of ice," as Father Flynn (Niccolo Manahan), the object of her unwanted scrutiny in this play, so describes her.

Perish the thought. Gil's deliciously rococo acting in local movies (Valentina, anyone, opposite a hapless Anjanette Abayari in "Darna: Ang Pagbabalik?") prepares no one for the extraordinarily subtle work she delivers in "Doubt."

Playing a headstrong nun who suspects a priest of molesting a boy and won't stop at nothing to prove her hunch, Gil's performance is complex, gripping, meticulously constructed—a rampart of glacial rectitude in a world close to meltdown. So detailed is this portraiture that Sr. Aloysius' character becomes both opaque and open at the same time, allowing you to sense the powerful passions percolating beneath her frozen skin.

Buddy talks

Consider the constraints she is in. It is 1964, and the ferment of Vatican II is bringing profound, often discomfiting changes to the Catholic Church, none of them good in Sr. Aloysius' eyes.

Where children needed firm but detached guidance, now the young priest Fr. Flynn, vanguard of new ideas about a more touchy-feely Church, goes for buddy talks and ice cream sessions with the boys. He also likes sugar on his tea, and thinks "Frosty the Snowman" would be a good addition to the Christmas pageant. ("'Frosty the Snowman' espouses a pagan belief in magic," warns Sr. Aloysius.)

This sort of zealotry has always been fair game for caricature, as our beloved childhood memories of terror nuns affirm.

"Children need warmth, kindness, understanding! What does she give them? Rules," complains Fr. Flynn.

It's not merely rules, however, and their increasingly fluid nature, that Sr. Aloysius is all choked up about. Once a married woman before taking up the habit, she is no naive girl seeking refuge in convent vows. Sharp, well-intentioned and capable, she is also aware that she belongs to a lower caste in the Catholic Church, where pastors and bishops, the governing class, are ever finicky about position and protocol.

Sr. Aloysius can only chafe, quietly, at the arbitrariness of her place in the ecclesiastical pecking order.

"I'm not answerable to you," Fr. Flynn tells her when confronted. "If you are dissatisfied with that, I suggest you speak to Monsignor Benedict."

Vigilant spirit

Sr. Aloysius' inviolable sense of certitude, then, does not derive from a simplistic, incurious mind, but from an eternally vigilant spirit. This woman has had to navigate the choppy waters of marriage and widowhood, convent life, institutional politics and social upheaval to be where she's at. She is not about to go all warm, fuzzy and complacent just because much of the world has grown slack. Truth, or how she sees it, is her bulwark. Anything less would be surrender.

"You have not the slightest proof of anything," Fr. Flynn reminds her heatedly, when

TRUTH/ F3

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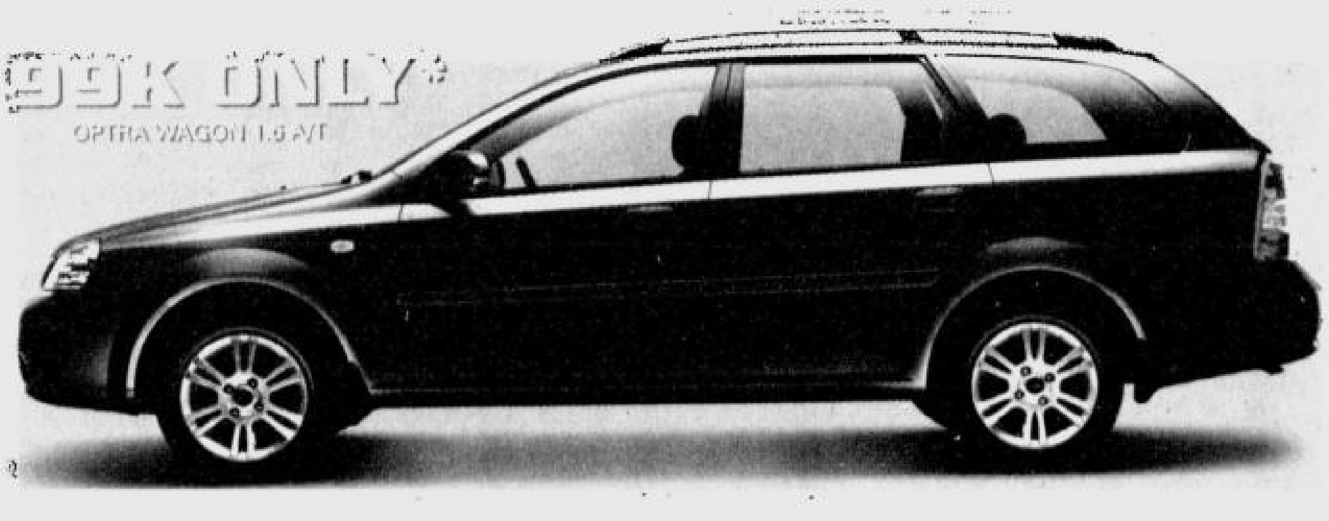

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Aveo Special Ed. 1.5 A/T	675,000	79,000	53,062	36,361	28,196	20,066	16,075	14,007	8,089
Optra 1.6 L A/T	713,000	89,000	55,555	38,069	29,521	21,009	16,830	14,665	8,514
Optra 1.6 LS M/T	738,000	89,000	57,781	39,594	30,704	21,850	17,504	15,253	8,844
Optra 1.6 LS A/T	783,000	89,000	61,787	42,339	32,833	23,366	18,716	16,311	9,383
Optra Special Ed. 1.6 A/T	795,000	99,000	61,968	42,461	32,927	23,433	18,772	16,357	9,527
Optra Wagon 1.6 M/T	808,000	99,000	63,123	43,254	33,542	23,871	19,123	16,663	9,683
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THE ANGEL plays her harp in the opening scene of Star City's "Munting Anghel"

THE ANGEL battles the evil Spidermen in a scene

Angelic story combines music, ballet and circus

THE ANGEL battles the giant spider and the evil Spidermen.

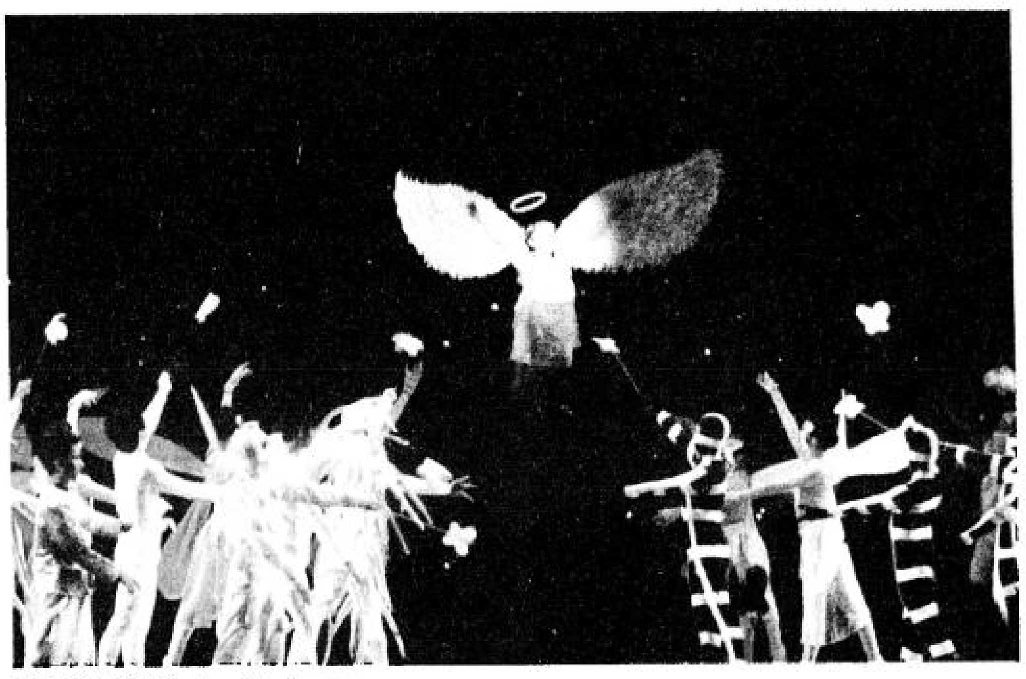
AN ADORABLE BUT MISCHIEVOUS young angel falls from the heavens, losing her wings, her harp and her halo. The only one way to retrieve them is by "earning" them back through good deeds. The search for goodness leads her to encounter monstrous creatures on land and sea—finding our little angel locked in a classic battle of good against evil. Will fate be kind to our fragile hero?

This is the story of Star City's newest Circus de Ballet offering, "Munting Angel," which goes onstage every weekend at the Star Theater.

As she works to recover her lost "powers," the little angel visits the deep woods to save forest creatures from the menacing Evil Spider and recover her wings, swims with beautiful marine animals and defends them from their foe, the Giant Octopus, and subdues the Dragon destroying the woodland fairies. She has to do all of these to recover her halo and regain entry to Heaven.

The fifth original production of Star City's Circus de Ballet concept, "Munting Anghel" combines drama and dance. Delighting the audience with every show are the top-caliber dancers of Ballet Manila performing side by side with the cream of Filipino circus performers, who were auditioned and recruited from all over the country.

Ballet Manila's artistic director Lisa Macuja-Elizalde collaborates on the script and staging while choreography and over-all direction are by BM artistic associate and ballet master Osias Barroso. Fred J. Elizalde is artistic adviser.



THE ANGEL flies back to heaven

"The story follows a classic and universal theme of good's triumph over evil," said Barroso, "but we also want to add something that is more personal and inspirational for our audience—such as picking yourself up from a loss, not losing hope and regaining your place in the world. And of course, displaying courage in defending what you believe in and making sacrifices for the good of all.

The story is presented through creative sets, props and costumes, circus acts, ballet choreography and elaborate lighting, including the use of ultraviolet lights to create a dreamlike underwater effect.

Admission to the production is free. It comes with every Ride-All-You-Can poptag (P190) or entrance ticket purchase (P40).

Star City is at the CCP Complex along Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City.

Uncovering 'Uwahig'

By Steven Patrick C. Fernandez
Contributor

AFTER NESTOR HORFILLA, GEEJAY Arriola and Mozart Pastrano, officers of Mindulani, Inc., the network of Mindanao theater artists, decided to feature an entry in the Philippine Theater Festival of the Unesco-International Theater Institute (ITI), I was invited to direct a collaborative production. I joined Singapore-trained Felimon Blanco of Pagadian's Kumbingan Theater Ensemble and Boots Dumlao of Davao's Kathara Dance Theater Collective.

We worked on an initial impetus, fire and water, opposing elements that figure prominently in Mindanao lore. Being opposites, they cultivate life and prove the axiom that new forms are shaped from contradicting elements.

Molding material

I dug from local lore and two stories took my fancy: the Indarapatra-Sulayman epic and the Bukidnon flood legend. Symbols fill these folk tales. Characters fly, the dead resurrect, persons and events transfigure. These tales are our own "magic realism," where fancy and reality meet, where life's plots rotate in endless cycles, where dreams combine with the palpable, where logic is experienced rather than explained, where images have more meanings than words.

We set rehearsals in Iligan with the MSU-IIT Integrated Performing Arts Guild (Ipag) forming the core group of eight actors-dancers and the stage management support. "Uwahig," Bukidnon for "water," was the chosen scenario, and water would be its prime image.

Deconstructing lore

Folklore was the platform where expression and meaning were erected. I assembled a collage of text, poetry, images and sounds. I was less interested in what the stories narrated but rather in what they, in tandem with the other elements, evoked: an effect perhaps, an organic logic, an ephemeral experience or some meaning that the performance-audience interaction will muster.

In a distant golden city, King Indarapatra begs his brother Sulayman to help save Mindanao from great destruction. Indarapatra places a large sapling by the window and by this tree will know the success or death of Sulayman. Sulayman flies across mountains and battles the curses *kurita* (a many-limbed crocodile-like monster), the bird-like *tarabusaw* and *pah*, another monstrous avian creature whose giant wing is cut off in the ensuing battle and falls to accidentally crush Sulayman. The tree wilts and Indarapatra learns of his brother's death. In great distress, he flies to the site to lament the death of Sulayman and continues the battle against the remaining monster, the seven-headed bird. Indarapatra brings Sulayman back to life by splashing him with a magic potion that heaven sends.

I merged the Bukidnon flood legend about people who build a large raft in anticipation of a large flood. When the giant crabs fall to earth, the waters overflow and flood the land but the raft saves the people. The menacing crabs are water symbols: what better way for water to devastate the land than have it crush and inundate life.

Creative process

A stimulating creative process shaped the scenario. Verse wove unit to unit where actors spat gibberish and groans, and writhed in contortions. Along improvisations was choreography that patched portions, marked off high points, stood as posts and emphasized climaxes.

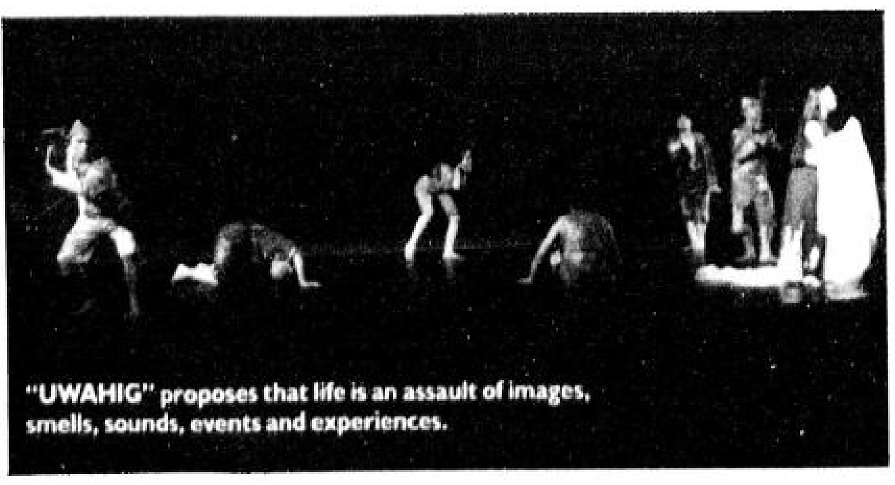
> Life is an assault of images, smells, sounds, events and experiences not conveniently arranged for us for our comfortable understanding

Music—atonal, multi-rhythmic and idiosyncratic, keeping the "tribal" character of Mindanao—was composed long-distance by Geejay and her Mebuyan group, with nary a music sheet to base the work on except for my flimsy scenario. But by strokes of artistic ingenuity, the music snugly fit into parts of the scenario.

Scenarios were cut into smaller units to illustrate a "musical score" of texts, with each unit enclosed in color-coded tables to visualize musical movement. Each unit ran like a motif or theme, with its own development, a climax and a resolution. The structure was classic.

I described the feel I imagined for the unit: mysterious, anxious, violent or hopeful, and it was up to the composers to fill in the musical equivalents.

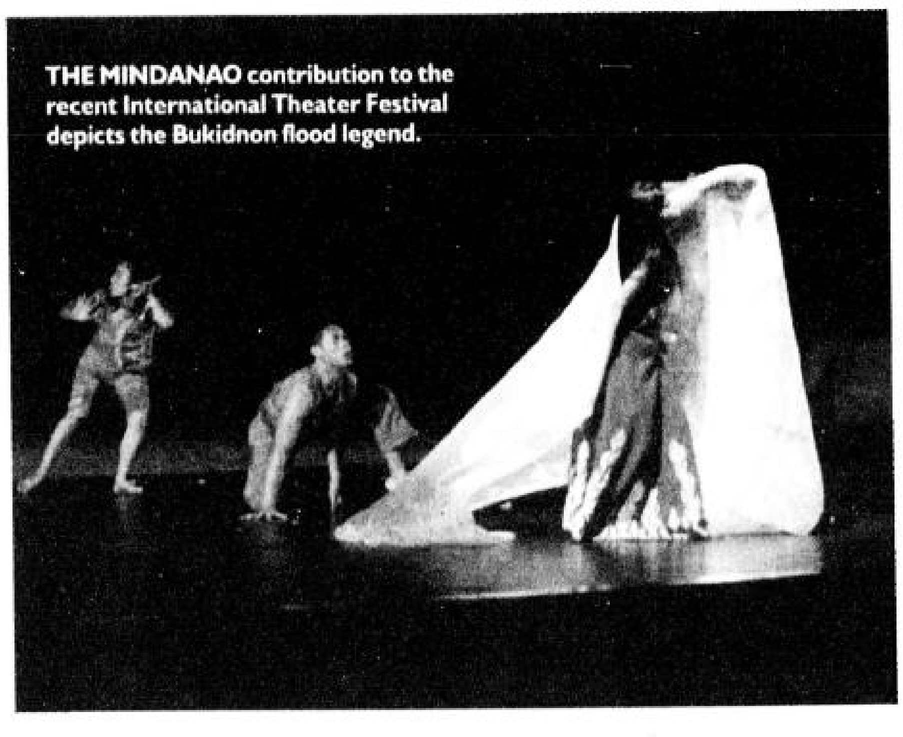
"Uwahig" was designed like a musical suite. I e-mailed the scenario with a hodgepodge of directions in red arrows, inserted balloons, and marginal notes and the matrix that indicated the run of the score, the measures, duration and the quality of music suggested. Texting settled inquiries and, in a week, the play had a score posted and heard in our e-groups, with the composers never having seen the show.



"UWAHIG" proposes that life is an assault of images, smells, sounds, events and experiences.

Rehearsals

To our favor, the performers were already a team, having worked with each other for a long time. Actors interacted in duets, triplets and among crowds to the stimuli of puppets, lights and sound. We marked the emotional context of each unit and dug up the appropriate feeling from our own emotional reservoirs.



THE MINDANAO contribution to the recent International Theater Festival depicts the Bukidnon flood legend.

The body followed, and whatever sense and feel the actors dug transformed to gestures and sounds. The performers worked on contact improvisations, in bio-mechanics as they dissected movement dynamics, and on the nine *rasas* (essences) that enhanced their own studies of acting methods and dance techniques. A form was shaping: we were distilling meaning.

The intention was not to understand the play like in a usual story. "Uwahig" was about experience. Disparate elements combined to produce a whole final form whose meanings were captured, experienced and interpreted.

Experience, like meaning, is relative. The meaning of an experience is imposed by an audience, and pieced together on their terms. Like in understanding dreams, one is incited to think; feeling is evoked through the merging of separate parts to produce an organic and complete impression.

I drew images and narrated events set up by the relationships of the brothers, of Sulayman and the crowd, among three groups of people, of the brothers and the monsters, of the crowd and water, and in other numerous instances. The play is littered with sights and sounds: water, flood, fire, the crabs, the seven-headed bird, costumes, faces half-decayed by virus, and films of war, evacuation and destruction, among others.

I tore down all four walls as audiences sit around with the performers among the sets, each spectator assaulted at the same time as the performers are also assaulted.

The spectator, harassed by myriad elements, now chooses whether to simply feel or to think. Or to do both.

Alternative theater

I'm not saying that we abandon conventional theater. On the contrary, conventional theater should enhance our experiments of alternative media as the New Theater vitalizes our theater traditions. We build on conventions. Our tradition of theater-going and understanding cannot be discarded.

But there are alternative ways of expressing. Conventional playwriting and production, many times, have been inadequate to embrace the rich panorama of life. All too often, meaning is conveniently spoon-fed when, in fact, meaning can never be swallowed in a single mouthful.

The real is too complex to be simplified by a singular narrative. In life, events and their meanings unfold not in singular linear manners but from multiple directions even without converging on a common point.

One experiences the stories of death not by convenient storytelling but by the piecing of parts, some of which may even be forever missing. The semiotic references of sound, color, music and other palpable elements make the spectator collate an organic experience to provide meaning to that experience.

This is the alternative theater "Uwahig" proposes. It is our theater of symbols. Life is an assault of images, smells, sounds, events and experiences not conveniently arranged for us for our comfortable understanding. We have to distill meaning. Real stories are not events arranged in chronological order.

If theater will have to approximate the erratic nature of life, then life's arbitrariness should be reflected in theater.

Truth or consequence

From page F1

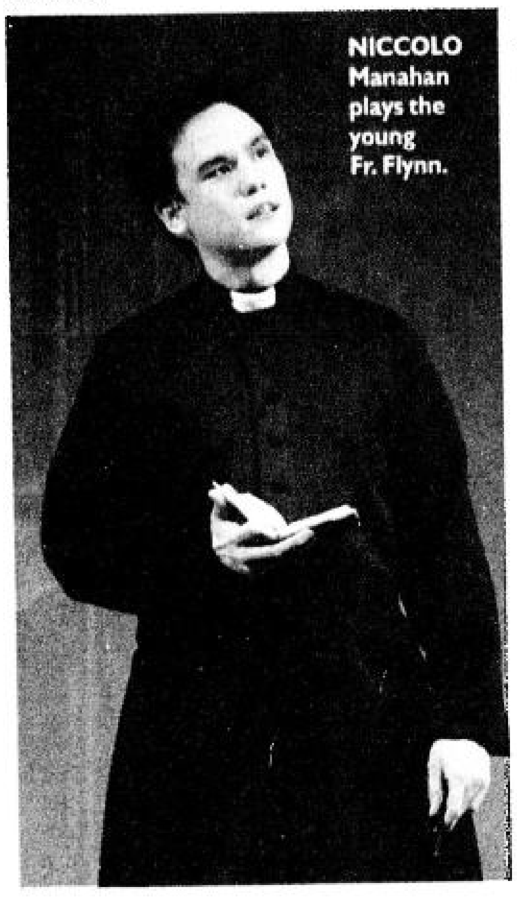
she demands that he confess. "You have no right to act on your own! You are a member of a religious order. You have taken vows, obedience being one! You answer to us!"

"But I have my certainty!," she declares. "I will do what needs to be done, Father, if it means I'm damned to Hell! You should understand that, or you will mistake me."

Fr. Flynn and Sr. Aloysius' withering clash of wills makes for a thrilling, suspenseful battle, heightened all the more by the pristine state of their field of combat: the conscience of Sr. James (Cathy Azanza), an impressionable young nun who must choose between Sr. Aloysius' bleak, utilitarian view of the world, or Fr. Flynn's suspiciously flexible orthodoxy.

More to the point, the ripped-from-the-headlines currency of this war raises unsettling questions: When is a hunch enough to justify an obsession of Javert-like proportions? Is destruction of a good name subservient to saving a child, no matter how scant the proof? Can doubt, as Fr. Flynn puts it, really "be as powerful and sustaining as certainty?"

SR. ALOYSIUS in a tense meeting with Mrs. Muller (Jay Glorioso)



NICCOLO Manahan plays the young Fr. Flynn.

Shanley's play, which won four Tony Awards last year including Best Play, as well as the Pulitzer Prize for Drama, offers no neat answers or convenient red herrings to justify one point or the other. By acknowledging the prismatic nature of truth and the often-murky motivations of the heart, "Doubt" ineffably crosses over from being a story of some topical immediacy to the realm of parable.

Exemplary turns

The performances are exemplary across the board, paced by Gil's forbidding Sr. Aloysius. Manahan's Fr. Flynn skillfully conveys the ingratiating earnestness of a fresh pastor eager to do good—and look good—to his young wards. One might wish for a more combative adversary to Sr. Aloysius, but his complete subjugation only highlights Sr. Aloysius' own devastating moment of reckoning in the play's final scene.

Azanza as the callow Sr. James tends to be floridly weepy in some scenes, but she plays her character's insecurities touchingly. And Jay Glorioso does a brief but disturbing turn as Mrs. Muller, the mother of the boy in question, whose own sense of right and wrong is perhaps as compromised as the truth at the heart of Sr. Aloysius' campaign.

Together, these four actors find a quietly eloquent pitch to Shanley's play. A model of economy and punch, "Doubt" wastes no words in its less-than-two-hours run, and it's also very funny in places. (Sr. James: "I want my students to feel they can talk to me." Sr. Aloysius: "They're children. They can talk to each other.")

Does this nun ever doubt herself? The play builds the case that she doesn't. When a fissure does appear, the moment is shattering, and Gil's reading of a pivotal final line—"In the pursuit of wrongdoing, one steps away from God. Of course, there's a price"—literally becomes life-altering for her character.

Consider yourself deprived if you miss this sterling production, directed with restraint by Chari Arespacochaga. (The spare set is by Mio Infante, lights by Johnsy Reyes and original musical scoring by Manman Angsico.)

It's a brilliant play, and Gil's is a stellar turn. Of these, "Doubt" brooks no doubts.

"Doubt" runs until June 24 at the Carlos P. Romulo Auditorium, RCBC Plaza, Makati City; and June 30-July 2 at Onstage! Ayala Center Cebu. Call 8927078/8401187/8919999 (Manila) and 2330236/2330452/0917-8155794 (Cebu).

E-mail the author at gcadiz@inquirer.com.ph

'Master Class' pays tribute to Maria Callas

TERRENCE MCNALLY'S "MASTER CLASS" opens the Philippine Opera Company's opera season.

This moving drama depicts a class conducted by the legendary opera soprano Maria Callas at the famed Juilliard School of Music during the early '70s. In the play, she recounts her life as opera's Grand Dame, and reveals rare glimpses of her private life as paramour to multi-billionaire Aristotle Onassis.

"Master Class" has earned Tony, Drama Desk, Outer Critics Circle and New York Drama awards for Best Play. It will star Nolyn Cabahug, Ana Feleo, Glen Gaerlan, Jay Glorioso, Karla Gutierrez, Ceejay Javier, Jojo Malferrarri and Michael Williams.

Direction is by theater veteran Baby Barredo. Gino Gonzales renders the Juilliard set and Shoko Matsumoto does the light design. "Master Class" is under the license of William Morris Agency.

THE CAST of "Master Class": (standing) Ana Feleo, Nolyn Cabahug, Karla Gutierrez; Glen Gaerlan, Jay Glorioso and Michael Williams

Maria Callas

"Master Class" will run for eight shows starting July 12, 13, 14, 15, 19, 20, 21 and 22, 8 p.m., at the Carlos P. Romulo Auditorium, RCBC Plaza.

Sponsors are the Yuchengco Group of Companies, Everbilena, Hair Reconstruction Devices, McDonald's, Tower Records, Music One, Pietro, 92.3FM, NU 107, Frederick Peralta, Cutting Edge and Lyric Piano.

For interested block or show buyers or season ticket subscribers, call 8958097 and look for Doris Campaña.

Peta's 38th season features 'Lola Basyang,' Guerrero's gay comedy

ON ITS FIRST YEAR AT THE newly inaugurated Theater Center, the Philippine Educational Theater Association will hold its 39th theater season.

Opening in July is the restaging of "Mga Kuwento ni Lola Basyang." Written by Christine Bellen and with music by Noel Cabangon, the musical, directed by Phil Noble and Nor Domingo, brings to life the beloved icon, Lola Basyang, the storytelling Filipino grandmother created by Severino Reyes.

The musical features three of Reyes's most well-loved stories: "Ang Prinsipeng Mahaba ang Ilong," "Ang Binibining Tumalo sa Mahal na Hari," and "Ang Prinsipeng Duwag."

"Walang Himala (Isang Maikling Kasaysayan ng Resureksyon)," by Rene Villanueva, Liza Magtoto and Janneke Agustin, and directed by Maribel Legarda, goes on stage on the second week of August. It is about the Edsa revolution.

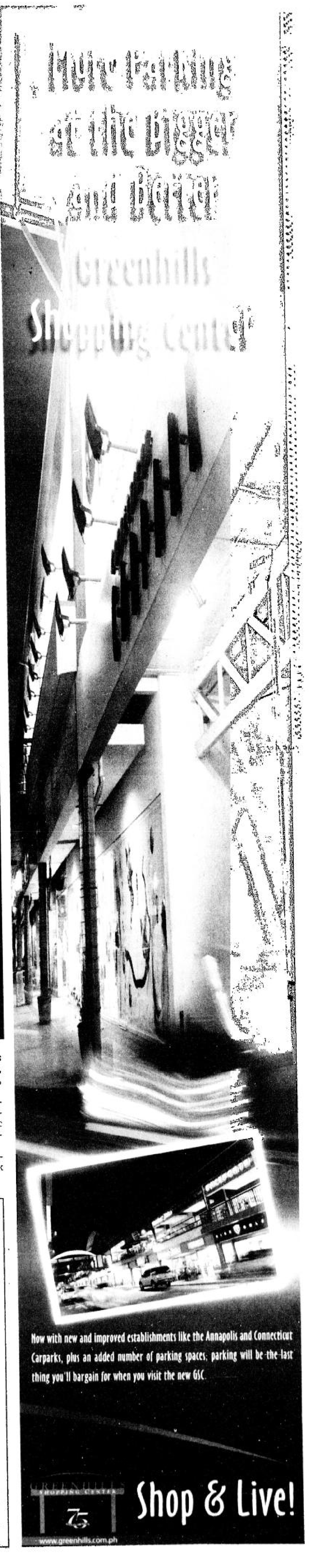
Jovy Miroy's adaptation of Don Quijote brings Miguel Cervantes' classic character to life as a Bacolod aristocrat who wanders among the homeless, the beggars and the shady characters of Metro Manila's underworld. Chris Millado directs. The performances are on the third week of September to the second week of October.

Finally, on all weekends of February 2007, Peta closes the season with Wilfrido Ma. Guerrero's last unproduced play, "Lady in White," a comedy about a matron who decides to hire a male escort from one of Manila's popular gay bars.

A SCENE from "Mga Kuwento ni Lola Basyang"

All performances take place at the Peta-Phinma Theater, Peta Theater Center, 5 Sunnyside Drive, Bgy. Kristong Hari, Quezon City, at the back of the Quezon City Sports Club.

Call 7256244 or 7218604. E-mail peta@petatheater.com.



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Lessons from musical prodigies

PROFESSOR Reynaldo G. Reyes

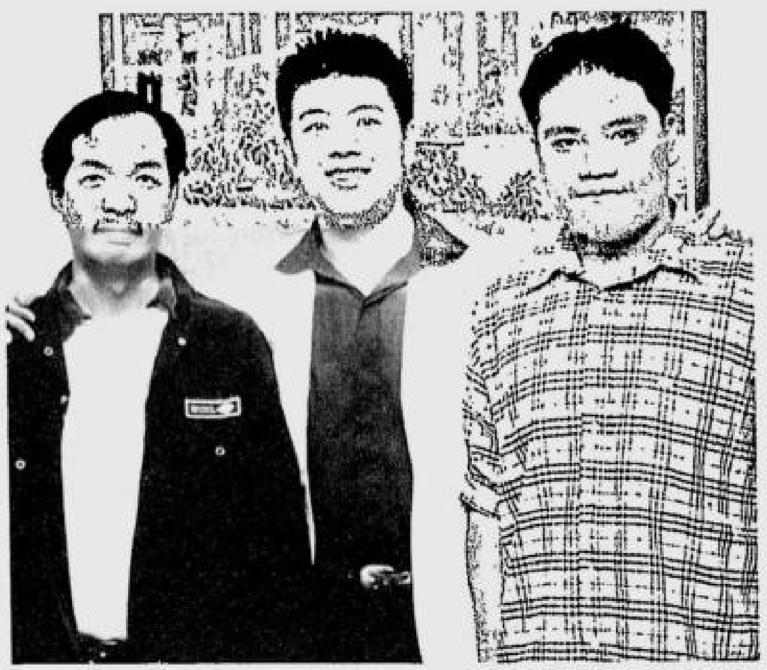
By Pablo A. Tariman
Contributor

LAST WEEK, I TOOK UP THE STORY OF Lynn University clarinet scholar Girard Moses Villanueva who managed to survive four years of music scholarship abroad without seeing his parents due to high cost of air tickets. He recently graduated as summa cum laude, not magna cum laude as I earlier reported.

Pianist Oliver Salonga who will perform at the Philam-life Theater on June 25 (call tel. 9007023 or cell 0906-5104270) has only one more year to go before graduating and his experience so far should be an eye-opener.

So what did he learn from being abroad for more than three years without coming home to be with his parents?

Salonga said he learned to be independent, among others, and practice more efficiently and effectively. "I began to visualize my music pieces in a much bigger perspective. I started to focus on my music-making rather than showing off so-called virtuosic abilities which is no longer a rarity these days. I also learned to manage my time since I have a lot of solo repertoire to learn and at the same time trying to be more sensitive as a chamber musician."



THE AUTHOR with pianists Lang Lang and Oliver Salonga.

Top musicians say competitions are overrated. What's needed is to deepen craft

He said that meeting his monthly board and lodging expenses is the most difficult as the school can only offer full scholarship on tuition.

Stories of how full scholars cope with monthly expenses vary. Some apply for school assistantship, others become part-time babysitters, many end up as utility boys (janitors) and gardeners, and still others work as private tutors.

When frustrations set in and thoughts of quitting hit them, they have to learn to manage emotionally as parents and relatives are thousands of miles away.

Salonga has adjusted to the rigors of foreign schooling so that winning contests is no sweat for him.

"I used to spend sleepless night entertaining thoughts like 'what if I lose, what if I only place second or third?' Now I realize that the best attitude is to treat them as part of the learning process. One important thing about joining a competition is that you learn how to cope with pressure and after hurdling them, you become more confident."

How do other seasoned pianists regard competitions?

Lang Lang and Reyes

The celebrated piano prodigy of the People's Republic of China, Lang Lang (he performed in Manila with the New York Philharmonic three years ago) is another young artist who doesn't believe in competitions.

Lang Lang said competing is overrated. "I don't believe in competitions. I joined just to gain a little experience playing in public and reaching out to them. I stopped joining competitions because I believe that music is not about competing with fellow artists. Making music is not like playing basketball and you have to score to win. I'd rather compete with myself. I don't want to end up as another famous pianist. I want to be a real artist without facing different sets of piano jury."

Professor Reynaldo Reyes who opened the 12th Romantic Piano Concerto Journey in Bacolod City with Ingrid Sala Santamaria last week, said that those competing—win or lose—should regard themselves as winners one way or another."

That fact that you were chosen to compete means you already won over other earlier contestants, Reyes explained. There are cases of first-prize winners who ended up not making a career and those who lost ended up as the real artist and with a meaningful career, he said.

"Besides, those in the jury of various competitions have different tastes," Reyes said. "When you lose, it doesn't mean you are a bad pianist. It merely means he or she prefers the other performer as a matter of personal taste."

Reyes is a prizewinner of the Rio de Janeiro International Piano Competition, a pupil of the famous Marguerite Long (of the Marguerite Long-Jacques Thibaud Paris Competition). He admitted he joined the competition just to get a free ticket to Rio de Janeiro.

"That I made it to the finals and made it to the place I want to visit without sufficient preparation was the real thrill I got from competitions," Reyes told the INQUIRER.

SALONGA during his last Manila visit. "Studying in the US is in itself a learning experience."

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